



Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, April 24

OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Valters at the Mannerchor, 976 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$250, Individual: \$75 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

Thursday, April 26

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000,

Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf~~e~~, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

Tuesday, May 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Wednesday, May 2

Pro-life Legislative Day

Thursday, May 3

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Portage Country Club, 240 N. Portage Path, Akron, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$250 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Tuesday, May 8

Primary election day

Thursday, May 10

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, May 11

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Saturday, May 12

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, May 15

Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.

Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at sbewley@oahp.org or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, May 16

Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day
Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)
2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.
Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor- \$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)

Wednesday, May 23

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)
Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Host:\$350 to Friends of Becker)
Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, OHROC , 21 W Broad St. 7th Floor, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Committee to Elect Doug Green)

Thursday, May 24

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, May 31

JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Friday, June 1

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83), Avon, 9:30 a.m., (9:30am Registration | 10:30am Shotgun Start | 3:30pm Appetizers and Awards; , Avon, Ohio 44011 Eagle Sponsor: \$1,500 | Birdie Sponsor: \$750 |

Foursome: \$400 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$125 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Monday, June 4

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, Crown Hill Golf Club, 9500 U.S. 22, Williamsport, 12 p.m., (12:00pm Lunch | 12:30pm Shotgun Start | 5:00pm Dinner. Tournament Sponsor \$2,000 | Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000 | Birdie Sponsor: \$500 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 | Dinner Only: \$50 to Peterson for Good Government)

Friday, June 8

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 11

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

Tuesday, June 12

Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus

Friday, June 15

Deadline to file post-primary campaign finance reports

Monday, June 18

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 25

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville**

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 19

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser

Friday, July 20

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus
Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 26

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser
YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, July 27

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 31

Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

Friday, August 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Thursday, September 6

Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports

Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Wednesday, October 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

Thursday, October 25

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Friday, December 14

Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

Thursday, January 31

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

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From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Temporary guardians' rights would be spelled out under new Senate bill

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

[View in Browser](#)



Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer



Rotunda Rumblings

For temporary guardians: A bill introduced Monday would clarify that families that briefly take in children can sign school permission slips, take the kids to the doctor and receive other guardian rights. Under Senate Bill 291, the guardians would have to be trained by organizations that specialize in temporary child placements, such as the Cincinnati area's Safe Families for Children. For years that organization has kept kids in their neighborhoods and schools while their parents undergo drug or alcohol treatment, look for a new home after an eviction or find work, said sponsor Sen. Bill Coley. The bill also states that child services agencies couldn't investigate parents for abandoning their kids if they agree to temporarily place their kids through an organization.

Beyond methadone: A new bill would expand the types of medicinal treatments that opioid addicts can get in Ohio. State law allows doctors, pharmacists, community addiction centers and other providers to only administer drugs known as opioid antagonists. But in House Bill 601, sponsor Rep. Tim Ginter removed the words "opioid antagonist" and replaced them with the word "drug," to cover new medicines and technologies that are coming to market, he said. The Ohio Pharmacists Association hasn't yet taken a position on the bill.

Doubling down: Despite being sued for defamation, the pro-Ryan Smith Honor and Principles PAC is back with another ad attacking Rep. Larry Householder, Smith's rival to become the next Ohio House speaker. The 30-second spot, airing in the Columbus market, renews its attack on Householder for being the subject of a 2004 FBI investigation. Last week, Householder filed suit against Honor and Principles over its first ad, which had a similar theme. As of Monday, the Virginia-based group has spent a total of \$170,000 on anti-Householder TV and radio ads in the Columbus market, according to political ad tracker Medium Buying (whose founder, Nick Everhart, is a defendant in Householder's lawsuit).

That's not all... The Honor and Principles PAC is also the target of a Federal Election Commission complaint filed Monday by the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. As

cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias reports, CREW alleges that a March 28 contribution from "LZP LLC" in Columbus to the PAC breaks federal elections law, which bars someone from making a political contribution in someone else's name.

Shine a little light: State Rep. Kathleen Clyde, a Democratic candidate for secretary of state, has a new bill designed to shed light on dark money used in Ohio political campaigns. House Bill 610 (aka the Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections Act, or DISCLOSE Act) would require 501(c)4s and LLCs to report their contributors, prohibit state political spending by foreign individuals and corporations, and mandate that campaign-finance reports include details on the sources of a political group's funding. The bill, however, has yet to attract any Republican co-sponsors - something almost always needed for a bill to move through the GOP-dominated legislature.

Leneghan wins more endorsements: Republican 12th Congressional District candidate Melanie Leneghan on Monday announced the backing of the Family Research Council Action PAC, as well as ex-Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell. The endorsements come as the Liberty Township trustee debuted a new TV ad trumpeting her as a Christian conservative who backs President Donald Trump.

SEIU 1199 picks Rich: Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Rich Cordray on Monday picked up an endorsement from the Service Employees International Union District 1199.

Good marks: The East Central Ohio Education Association -- representing teachers in Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Stark, Wayne and Tuscarawas counties -- named Democratic Sen. Joe Schiavoni, who is also running for governor, its 2018 Friend of Education.

Stories We're Talking About

Take a number: Who is the biggest career politician in Ohio? If you ask the candidates, you'll get any number of answers. But cleveland.com's Seth A. Richardson developed a formula to help determine mathematically where all the statewide candidates rank.

Cleveland love: Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and a dozen members of City Council endorsed Richard Cordray for governor, Richardson writes. The local officials said Cordray was the only candidate who could help them recover from budget crunches due to tax cuts at the state level.

Blow the whistle: A former employee for the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow said he told the Ohio Department of Education that ECOT officials told staff to mess with enrollment numbers using software, according to the AP's Julie Carr Smyth. State Sen. Joe Schiavoni, a Democrat running for governor, called for a criminal investigation, according to The Vindicator.

Money pot: The Controlling Board on Monday approved \$5.16 million for the state's medical marijuana program, reports cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt. Of that, \$2 million will go toward legal fees associated with lawsuits and administrative appeals over the license application process.

Drama: Columbus Rep. Bernardine Kennedy Kent is beefing with House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn and the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, according to the Columbus Dispatch's Jim Siegel. OLBC President Stephanie Howse said Kennedy Kent forged signatures on OLBC letterhead when sending a public records request to Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther.

The contenders: By now, you probably know that Jim Renacci is leaving his 16th Congressional District seat, but you might not know who is running to replace him. However, cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton has you covered in her introduction to all the candidates.

Five Questions

Lawrence Cohen, a New Albany attorney, is a Republican candidate for Ohio's 12th Congressional District.

1. As a first-time political candidate, why are you running for Congress, of all races?

"I've sat here and watched what's going on, and I've been frustrated with the politics as usual – the establishment always deciding who's best for us, the big money in politics and feeling like my representative was owned by special interests and was representing them more than the voters. So I decided to get in the race."

2. How would you describe yourself politically?

"I call myself a common-sense conservative. I think if you look at the people in the race today, I'm not one of those candidates that's trying to position myself as the most conservative. ...I think you have people out there that are willing to blindly follow [U.S. Rep.] Jim Jordan or [President] Donald Trump, and I'm really in this to make sure that the people of the 12th Congressional District are represented."

3. What's one thing that you disagree with Pat Tiberi on, if anything?

"A couple years ago, there was a bill that he voted no on that would have given mental health the same level, the same status in society as physical health. And I think that was a mistake. I think mental health is a real issue, despite what some people want to say. ...The other one is, topically in the news, his endorsement of Troy Balderson. I think that we're back into the establishment politics."

4. Tell me about your background.

"After graduating from Ohio State – the first time ? 3 I worked for [the now-defunct accounting firm] Coopers & Lybrand. ...And did some auditing work for them. Then I went back to Ohio State and got an MBA and a law degree, and was a practicing attorney, doing a lot of business and tax work for about 10 years. After that, I got into the corporate world and worked for three different companies."

5. You have "dotted the I" as a member of the Ohio State marching band. How often does that come up? Is that something people recognize you from?

"When I was knocking on doors in Bellville, I noticed that a guy had some

Buckeye stuff on his porch. And so I said, 'If it matters to you, I also dotted the "I" in Script Ohio,' And he's like, 'Oh, I was in the marching band, too.' It was a great time in my life. ...[Playing in the band] taught me to get along with everybody."

What's Going On

7 a.m. – Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th annual conference: Events include a legislative reception at 5:30 p.m. *Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St.*

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Ohio Association of Health Underwriters Annual Day at the Statehouse. *Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St.*

11 a.m. – Gov. John Kasich to make workers' comp announcement: The governor is slated to be accompanied by Sarah Morrison, administrator/CEO of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. *Land-Grant Brewing Company, 424 W. Town St.*

11:30 a.m. – Rep. Andy Brenner fundraiser: The Powell Republican is seeking donations between \$350 and \$1,000. *Parlor A/B, Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 E. Broad St.*

2 p.m. – Mary Taylor to campaign in Cleveland area, Toledo: The lieutenant governor and Republican gubernatorial candidate has stops planned in North Olmsted at 2 p.m. and Toledo at 6:30 p.m.

3 p.m. – Mike DeWine and Jon Husted to campaign in Belmont County: The Republican gubernatorial ticket plans to campaign door-to-door with Ohio voters. *Belmont County GOP headquarters, 7 W. Main St., St. Clairsville.*

5 p.m. – Sens. Matt Huffman and John Eklund fundraiser: The Republicans are seeking donations between \$350 and \$1,000. *Pins, 141 N. 4th St.*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Mineral Association

legislative reception. Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.

Birthdays

Jen House, Ohio Young Democrats president

Straight From The Source

"If we don't get this data, someone might get killed."

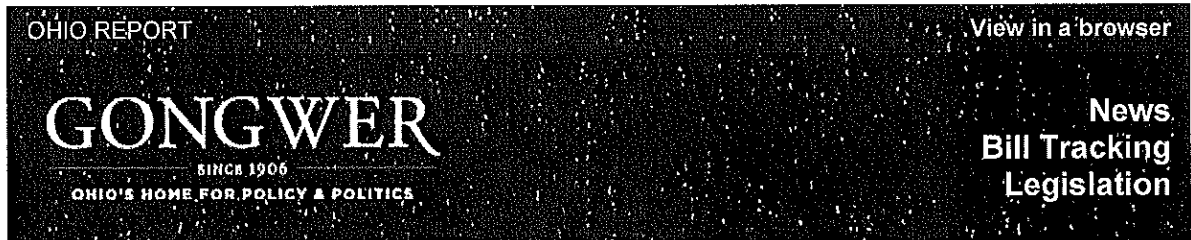
- Gov. John Kasich, while signing an executive order on Monday to help ensure information about criminal convictions and mental-health adjudications is added in a more timely way to state and federal databases used to identify those disqualified from purchasing guns.

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

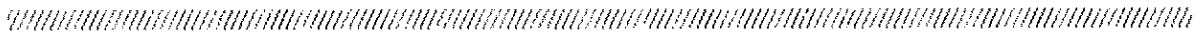
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:11 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, April 25, 2018
Attachments: Apr25.htm; 180425dayplan.htm



OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25



Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote

PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement

House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker

Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions

Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies

High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals

Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits

Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...

Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...

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Volume #87, Report #80 -- Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote

Gov. John Kasich wants to see a set of gun safety proposals he is supporting come up for a vote, but one legislative leader said his chamber is working through several firearm-related issues.

The governor said Tuesday he hoped to see a vote on a proposal (HB 585 & SB 288) to make several changes to the state's gun laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

Gov. Kasich pointed to the deadly shooting over the weekend at a Tennessee Waffle House restaurant, saying the state needs a "red flag" law to seize guns from people determined to be dangerous. That someone was able to stop the shooter while he reloaded also shows the need for limiting the capacity of magazines, the governor said.

The governor's proposals, particularly the "red flag" language creating extreme risk protection orders, have met pushback from some Republican legislators. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 10, 2018)

Gov. Kasich said he still expects the proposal to become law.

"We're going to get this package through," he said. "This is going to happen. It's not going to be easy to duck and run away and put your head in the sand. I will not let that happen. Maybe they can stop it, but it isn't going to be without a lot of people feeling a lot, a lot of pressure."

The governor said the gun safety proposal would likely pass if brought up for a vote.

"Bring it up and have a vote on it," he said. "We'll see where the votes are. Let's see where the majority of the caucus is. I guarantee you, you put this gun safety on the Senate floor, it passes. We need a vote."

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday he doesn't expect that exact proposal to come to the floor of his chamber, but that members are looking at several different items that could eventually pass.

"We have a very open process, we will look at a number of different changes related to firearms, some of which are in line with what the governor is looking at, some of which are longstanding problems that our caucus has felt we had a need to fix," he said.

The Senate leader pointed to legislation ranging from one sponsored by two Republicans to shift the burden of proof in self-defense cases, among other changes (SB 180), to proposals by Democrats to ban bump stocks (SB 219) and to create extreme risk protection orders (SB 278).

"Whether anything passes or whether a lot of it passes, we'll decide as a caucus," Sen. Obhof said.

The risk protection order measure, sponsored by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), is one where Sen. Obhof said he's spoken with the sponsor and with the National Rifle Association in an effort to work out differences.

"Everything's on the table," he said.

PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's approval Wednesday of AEP Ohio's new rate plan sets the stage for what Chairman Asim Haque believes could be the state's longest period of rate stability in the last decade.

Mr. Haque made that assessment moments after the commission voted 4-0 to modify and approve a wide-ranging rate settlement agreement filed last year by AEP and 19 interested party groups. Commissioner Daniel Conway recused himself.

In addition to establishing rates until May 2024, the Electric Security Plan includes a \$21.1 million "Smart City Rider" to fund electric vehicle charging station development and microgrid investment.

If the commission later this year approves Duke Energy's own proposed settlement rate plan, rates would be stabilized for all four of Ohio's major electric utilities until the mid-2020s, Mr. Haque said.

"This decision represents stability for AEP customers," Mr. Haque said. "ESPs are big cases. They are time intensive and they are very litigious. To have stability in the AEP footprint...is a very good thing for AEP's current customers and for job creation in AEP's service territory."

The commission's order, which may still be appealed by opponents, has been years in the making.

AEP in 2016 filed its initial proposal but critics said that plan could pave the way for a 120% increase - from \$8.40 to \$18.40 a month - for affected customers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 16, 2016)

The company filed a settlement agreement last year with 19 parties including the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, the Natural Resources Defense Council to address those concerns. AEP has said

the stipulation would lead to a less than 50-cent increase in average monthly bills. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 28, 2017)

Julie Sloat, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer, said in a statement the plan responds to consumer requests.

"Our customers want reliability and access to advanced technologies, such as EV charging stations, microgrids and renewable energy resources," she said.

"Our plan allows us to bring these services, which also will support economic development in Ohio, to customers across the state. The ESP enables us to continue our investments in the electric grid to provide reliable power and help advance the new technologies and cleaner energy that our customers want."

Dan Sawmiller, the NRDC's Ohio energy policy director, said one surprising modification made by the commission in its order is the removal of a provision that would have enabled AEP to push back that requested 120% increase until 2020.

Other wins from supporters' point of view is a \$10 million rebate program for electrical vehicle charging stations, \$10.5 million for microgrid projects, and regulatory tweaks clearing the way for 900 megawatts of clean energy in Appalachia, Mr. Sawmiller said.

"AEP's now going to be positioned to respond to the expectations of Ohio customers that have been pushing AEP to invest in more clean energy options for years," Mr. Sawmiller said. "On top of that there are some pilot programs in the stipulation and the data and the insight we're going to gain...create the groundwork for a lot of forward-looking progress."

The agreement still has its detractors, including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, which has argued the deal lacks specifics on customer costs and that the "Smart City Rider" should have been tackled through a separate rate case. The OCC last month petitioned the PUCO to reopen the case to enable further debate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 2, 2018)

"With the PUCO's approval of AEP's electric security plan today, the trend of charging Ohioans to subsidize outdated and non-competitive power plants continues," OCC spokeswoman Molly McGuire said. "And AEP's plan will also leave consumers paying subsidies for electric vehicle charging, microgrids, large customers (interruptible rates), automakers (bill credits), and possibly renewable energy."

The OCC has continued to press lawmakers to pass a bill (HB 247) banning Electric Security Plans, which it says deprive consumers of the benefits of competitive markets.

But in its order the PUCO determined that the ESP is "more favorable in the aggregate" than a market rate offer, which is the statutory guideline by which the commission evaluates ESPs.

"The ESP proposed in the stipulation affords customers in AEP Ohio's service territory numerous benefits and advances many of the state policy objectives enumerated in (Ohio Revised Code)," the PUCO's order reads.

Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman issued a concurring opinion elaborating on the aforementioned statutory provision - O.R.C. 4928.02 (C) - which establishes state policy as promoting customer choice, encouraging innovation and facilitating the development of the competitive retail electric market through flexible regulatory treatment.

Mr. Friedeman opined that market distortions resulting from cost imbalances might undermine that code section and that those distortions may "erect market barriers which have the tendency not to promote retail competition but rather to have an anti-competitive impact or in an extreme eventuality to re-monopolize the retail market inconsistent with enunciated state policy."

House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker

House Republicans will vote next month to choose the next speaker, and it is likely that the results of primary elections will influence who gets the gavel.

The majority caucus will vote at noon Tuesday, May 15, to choose its next leader, Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said in a memo to members.

The special caucus will only consider votes for a new speaker to fill out the remainder of the year, not any other leadership positions, Rep. Schuring said.

The new speaker will replace Cliff Rosenberger, who resigned earlier this month amid an investigation by the FBI. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

The speaker's race for the rest of the year could come down to the two candidates who have already been running for the job next year: Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford). Another possibility is that the caucus will select a placeholder speaker to finish out the year, and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), who is term-limited, has expressed interest in that role.

Rep. Smith has said he's confident he can win the speaker's chair when a vote is called. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2018)

He and Rep. Householder have both been supporting candidates in primary races in an effort to secure a majority in the next General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2018)

If the race comes down to Rep. Smith and Rep. Householder, a likely factor in the race will be the results of the primary election, to be held a week before the speaker vote.

The caucus could also choose a placeholder speaker, likely a term-limited member. Rep. Pelanda said she has discussed the possibility that she run to finish out the rest of

the year. Unlike the other hopefuls, she would be able to do so without the distraction of running in another election.

"I truly believe that it's in the best interest of the members of the Ohio House of Representatives that we have an interim leader to finish out the business of the 132nd General Assembly," she said in an interview.

She said she has not aligned herself with either of the other speaker candidates and said she has had "thoughtful, encouraging" conversations with fellow members about running.

"We've got three weeks until the election and the members will continue to be thoughtful about what is in the best interest going forward for this assembly," she said.

Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions

Existing tax breaks supporting the coal and agriculture sectors should be preserved, stakeholder groups told the Tax Expenditure Review Committee Wednesday.

The Ohio Coal Association and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation were among a handful of interested groups arguing in favor of continuing certain tax exemptions as the panel considers whether to preserve or scrap them. (Testimony)

Their arguments are essentially the same - that their respective industries are experiencing trying times and therefore need all the assistance they can get.

OCA President Mike Cope said the coal industry is just now beginning to recover from the "relentless war on coal" waged by the Obama Administration.

"Any tax levied on the purchase of new equipment would be devastating to our recovering industry," Mr. Cope said. "State policy that could increase the cost of coal mining could translate into higher electricity bills for Ohio's consumers."

The tax credit Mr. Cope was referring to exempts tangible personal property used directly in mining. Memos from the Department of Taxation estimate that the break costs the General Revenue Fund \$73.4 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$74.3 million in FY 2019. (ODT Analyses)

The Farm Bureau, meanwhile, lobbied for the continuation of credits pertaining to tangible personal property used in agriculture and for the sales and installation of agricultural land tile and portable grain bins.

The former credit lowered GRF revenues by \$331.1 million and \$339.4 million in FY 2018 and 2019, ODT reported. The tile and grain bin concession has a smaller impact at just over \$1 million in each of those years.

"The application of sales tax to input costs of a capital intensive, low profit industry such as agriculture would have significant and severe consequences," said Tony Seegers, the group's director of state policy. "Farm Bureau strongly believes the sales tax exemption must be preserved."

If lawmakers did away with those tax credits, Mr. Seegers said, the higher costs wouldn't immediately be passed onto consumers through costs. Instead, he said farmers themselves would be forced to swallow the change.

"Because prices are dictated by commodity exchanges and global demand, increased costs associated with applying sales tax to inputs will largely be eaten by farmers," he said. "Considering the profit margins we operate on, one can't help to think this would very likely drive some farmers out of business."

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants submitted written testimony defending an exemption for tangible personal property used in storing, preparing and serving food. ODT estimates a GRF impact of about \$34 million each fiscal year for the biennium due to that exemption.

"This exemption is vital to retailers engaged in providing food products to the general public, as well as to the public served by those retailers who benefit from lower prices as a result," the council argued.

Two other exemptions were on Wednesday's agenda but received no public feedback. They included sales of tangible personal property and services to electricity providers, and TPP used to produce printed materials. In Fiscal Years 2018-2019, those exemptions were expected to cost the GRF \$699.9 million and \$19.7 million respectively, according to ODT.

Wednesday's was the third overall meeting of the committee, which is tasked with reviewing all of Ohio's tax credits over the next eight years. The committee will meet again May 9 to discuss the remaining handful of sales and use tax breaks.

Chairman Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) said he anticipates the May meeting to be the committee's last this spring. The sales and use exemptions examined during the committee's meetings this year will form the basis of its first report this summer, he said.

"I think we're progressing in a manner that will help us make some decisions down the road and hopefully educate the people of Ohio who are watching," Sen. Oelslager said of the committee's work thus far.

The committee is expected to begin reviewing other exemptions heading into 2019 and has eight years to fully review all \$9 billion-plus a year Ohio's tax credits. The panel has already looked at manufacturing, packaging and a handful of other exemptions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2018)

In general testimony, Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, told members the legislature should appropriate funding for staff to undertake a more detailed analysis of the genesis of specific credits and how they have been broadened over time.

He also bemoaned that even as the committee continues its review lawmakers are still proposing and considering new tax exemptions through legislation.

"Adding new special-interest breaks is ill-conceived when this committee has barely started looking at the tax exemptions and credits we have now," Mr. Schiller said. "When the General Assembly thinks about giving away tens of millions for new business tax breaks, it should consider whether we have the money to pay for them, and whether the funds would be better spent educating young Ohioans, cutting our high infant-mortality rate, or fighting the opioid epidemic."

Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies

The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday denied several motions for reconsideration, including in two high-profile cases involving abortion and public records.

In one case, the court declined to reconsider its February ruling that found the Department of Health was justified in revoking the operating license of a Toledo abortion clinic for lack of a written transfer agreement with a "local" hospital.

In the ruling, the court found that Capital Care Network of Toledo violated state administrative code by inking a written transfer agreement with an Ann Arbor hospital, which the ODH deemed to not be local. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 6, 2018)

Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis called on the state to revoke the license of Toledo's only abortion clinic.

"Capital Care Network owes an enormous fine of \$40,000 to the state of Ohio, based upon repeated violations of state law," he said. "The original Ohio Department of Health order remains in effect and in order to reopen, this abortion facility must reapply for a license and pay its fine before aborting anymore children."

However, in a statement of its own NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio called on the ODH to immediately reinstate the license for the clinic.

"This morning, a woman in Toledo woke up with the knowledge that she needed an abortion," Executive Director Kellie Copeland said. "There is a clinic in her community that can offer her safe and professional care. That clinic has met all state requirements to provide abortion services. John Kasich and Mike DeWine are standing in between that woman and this clinic, and they are violating her rights as they do so."

Shortly after the court's original decision, the clinic lined up a last-minute transfer agreement with ProMedica.

The court also declined to reconsider its December decision in which it ruled against two newspapers that sought to compel the release of the final, un-redacted autopsy reports of eight individuals murdered in a single night in April 2016 in a Pike County case that is still unsolved.

The divided court in a 4-3 decision found the records requested by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Columbus Dispatch* fall under the confidential law enforcement investigatory records exemption. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 14, 2017)

The newspapers had argued that under the law final autopsy reports do not qualify for the CLEIR exemption because a coroner is not a law enforcement official.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell and Justice Sharon Kennedy dissented with the ruling on the motion to reconsider.

In a less high-profile case, the court also declined to reconsider its decision not to accept jurisdiction in a case in which a commercial fishing operation alleged that the state's administrative code defining Lake Erie yellow perch management units is unconstitutionally vague. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 14, 2017)

High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals

When an appellate court reviews a lower court ruling on an arbitration decision it should conduct an independent review of the legal claims made on appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a unanimous decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell, the high court determined appellate courts should accept findings of fact by trial courts that are not clearly made in error while reviewing the legal questions raised on appeal.

"When reviewing a trial court's decision to confirm, modify, vacate, or correct an arbitration award, an appellate court should accept findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous but should review questions of law de novo," Justice O'Donnell ruled.

The case stems from a dispute between the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and one of its employees, the high court reported.

Patricia Byttner was hired to serve as an account clerk for the board with the understanding she would fill the role of a bus driver or bus aide in emergency situations.

After her hiring, Ms. Byttner refused a bus aide assignment, citing a pending knee surgery.

Two months later, the board amended her job description, leading to the union representing her to file a grievance. An arbitrator sided with Ms. Byttner and the union.

The board then successfully asked the Portage County Court of Common Pleas to vacate the ruling.

The union challenged the trial court decision at the Eleventh District Court of Appeals, which reinstated the arbitrator's decision.

However, the decision conflicted with other appellate court rulings, leading the case to the high court.

"In conformity with our resolution of the certified question, we recognize that the court of appeals conducted a proper de novo review of the trial court's decision in this case vacating the arbitration award, reversed its decision, reinstated the arbitration award, and therefore we affirm its judgment," Justice O'Donnell wrote for the court.

In his decision, Justice O'Donnell noted that nine of the state's appellate courts applied a de novo review while three applied an "abuse of discretion" review.

Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Sadler sat in on the case for former Justice Bill O'Neill.

Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits

Lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton on Wednesday unveiled her campaign's plan to safeguard health care benefits and create new employment protections for the state's servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. Sutton, the Democratic running mate of Rich Cordray, and former gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich unveiled the campaign's policies regarding members of the armed forces at a press conference at the Statehouse Veterans Plaza.

The former congresswoman said the state has not done enough to support the men and women who are serving or have served in the military. She said enhancing services for veterans and better connecting them with existing resources would be a "top priority" in Cordray's administration.

"Too often our respect and admiration simply hasn't been matched by tangible action to help our veterans and servicemembers," she said.

The campaign's plan calls for the state to better fund county veterans services commissions to help them assist veterans making medical claims, offer incentives for employees who hire veterans with mild traumatic brain injuries, and protect the state's expansion of Medicaid for veterans who do not qualify for VA benefits.

Ms. Pillich, the head of the campaign's veterans policy team, said the "No. 1 concern" among veterans she has talked to throughout the state is health care. She said the Cordray campaign's plan would safeguard and expand important resources for servicemembers.

"Ohio veterans need much more than a specialty license plate," she said.

The former Ohio House member and U.S. Air Force veteran said the campaign also is proposing to include a box for veterans to check on state tax returns to allow the governor's office to identify them and connect them with available resources.

The plan also suggests the state protect the jobs of Army National Guard members who have been activated and allow spouses who lose their jobs because of a servicemember's transfer to collect unemployment benefits.

Ms. Sutton said she and her running mate also would make it a priority to take combat "predatory lenders" who target veterans.

"I can think of no leader with stronger credentials to do that than Rich Cordray," she said, citing her running mate's tenure as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Ms. Sutton, who previously served on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, also pointed to Mr. Cordray's work on a successful 2009 ballot issue to authorize bonuses for veterans of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf as evidence of his support for servicemembers.

"We owe veterans an enormous debt of gratitude, but our gratitude must be matched by tangible action by state government to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and military families," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "Betty and I will fight every day in office to honor those who have served and provide them with the support they need to thrive in Ohio."

Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...

Senate President Larry Obhof on Wednesday said setting standards for verifying e-school enrollment falls within the legislature's purview after a whistleblower's claims thrust a shuttered charter school back into the spotlight.

The chamber leader said after a nonvoting session that the body "should take a look" at how the state measures enrollment and funds such schools rather than fully deferring to ODE.

"When the legislature's able to do things or has the responsibility for doing things, it should be the legislature, not an administrative agency, that does that," he said.

The Associated Press first reported an employee of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow told Department of Education officials last year that the school demanded workers manipulate attendance figures after the state moved to recoup \$60 million in

payments. Within hours, the former employee's claim became an issue among candidates for attorney general and auditor. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 24, 2018)

Despite backing an examination of the issue by the legislature, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said he does not support "micromanaging all of the fine-tuned details" of the state's enrollment-verification process.

A bill (HB 611) sponsored by Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) that would tie state payments to e-schools to the use of verifiable software that tracks attendance, class size and participation was introduced last week in the House.

Alliance for the American Dream: Ohio State University has received a \$1.5 grant after a philanthropic organization selected the school to participate in an effort aimed at bolstering the middle class.

Schmidt Futures, a group founded by former Alphabet Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, announced this week it added OSU to its Alliance for the American Dream. The effort seeks to increase economic opportunities for working Americans and reduce poverty.

"We are delighted to announce that Ohio State will act as an inaugural partner in the Alliance for the American Dream," Mr. Schmidt said in a statement. "When I was in Columbus last December, I saw firsthand the energy and vibrancy of the campus and region. Columbus is a perfect place to find great, fresh ideas. We are delighted to support them as they fuel an innovation engine to help distressed communities and expand the middle class."

As part of the collaborative project, OSU will receive \$1.5 million in funding to engage business, community and government leaders in "in a robust brainstorming process," according to a news release from the school.

"As a modern land-grant university, Ohio State is committed to expanding opportunity, unlocking talent and increasing economic vitality," OSU President Michael V. Drake said in a statement. "We are absolutely thrilled to join the Alliance and to partner with individuals and communities on this important and timely endeavor. It's 'The Columbus Way' in action."

Teacher training bill: U.S. Senator Rob Portman announced the introduction of a bill aimed at establishing a grant program to support training for career and technical education teachers

"Quality CTE teachers play a key role in expanding access to high quality programs and making sure more students and parents recognize the value of a CTE education - all of which helps lead to more and better job opportunities for students," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to ensure that we have better prepared teachers for this generation and generations to come."

The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would provide funding for one-year residencies at schools for potential career and technical educators.

Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) is co-chairman of the Career and Technical Education Caucus with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). The co-chairs introduced the legislation alongside Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

The Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers and the Association for Career and Technical Education have expressed support for the measure.

Feasibility study: Belmont County school districts could save money by combining their efforts to maintain school buses, according to a study called the "first of its kind" by the state auditor's office.

The Bellaire Local School District, the Bridgeport Exempted Village School District, the Shadyside Local School District and the St. Clairsville-Richland City School District requested the state perform the study after seeing the number of bus riders decrease in recent years.

The study found the districts could operate more efficiently and save money by combining some maintenance efforts. Legislation (HB5) that took effect in 2016 gave the auditor's office the power to study the feasibility of potential efforts to share services among local governments.

"Ohio has thousands of local government entities, which has the advantage of keeping government close to the people, but the drawback is duplication of effort," State Auditor Dave Yost said in a statement. "Sharing services can keep government close to the people while reducing redundant administration, facilities and equipment. This saves money and improves efficiency for taxpayers. It also is a way to continue providing an adequate level of service even if costs rise or budgets shrink."

Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...

Zack Space announced that he is embarking on a two-day, five-city tour detailing the "corrupt culture on Capitol Square."

The state auditor hopeful in a statement cited the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow scandal and the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger as examples of the "the pervasive culture of corruption."

"We must take state government back from the self-interested incumbents and campaign contributors who put their special interests above the needs of ordinary Ohioans," he said in a statement. "That's why I am calling for a wide-ranging criminal investigation into ECOT and for the politicians who aided and abetted this scam to

donate every cent of campaign contributions received from ECOT founder Bill Lager and his associates to charities supporting Ohio public schools."

The tour included Wednesday stops in Youngstown and Steubenville and will head to events in Dayton, Toledo and Lima on Thursday.

New Ad: Democrat Richard Cordray is up with his second television ad in his gubernatorial campaign.

In "Save," the former director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau touts his record of protecting consumers.

"As treasurer, Cordray safeguarded your tax dollars. As attorney general he recovered \$2 billion that Wall Street stole," the narrator says in the 30-second spot. "That's why President Obama chose him to be our nation's top consumer watchdog."

SEIU Backing: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who faces a primary challenge from Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland), announced on Wednesday the Service Employees International Union District 1199 WV/KY/OH is backing his candidacy.

In announcing the endorsement Anthony Caldwell, director of public affairs, in a statement cited the Richmond Heights Democrat's three-decade career as a union organizer.

"Yuko's career as a 30-year union organizer reinforces and guides his principles to support the people of his district and determination to help those who are most vulnerable. He wants families in the 25th Senate District and across Ohio to earn fair wages, a quality public education, and access to healthcare coverage," he said.

Union Endorsement: Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor picked up another endorsement in his bid for the Democratic nomination in the 12th Congressional District.

The Communications Workers of America Local 4502 announced Wednesday that it is backing his candidacy. President David McCune in a statement said Mr. O'Connor will fight to protect working families.

"Danny has a passion for issues that affect hard working men and women such as creating economic opportunity and jobs for Ohio, improving our education system, and safeguarding our voting rights and the commitment to work for families," he said.

Farm Bill: The Ohio Farmers Union announced Wednesday its opposition to the U.S. House's version of the farm bill.

President Joe Logan said the proposal "turned a blind eye toward the urgent needs of farmers for a strong safety net" and "to the nutrition needs of America's least fortunate in both rural and urban communities."

"The Congress and administration have clearly demonstrated a willingness to explode the federal budget deficit by giving a \$1.5 trillion tax cut to wealthy corporations and individuals," he added. "When rural America asks for a far more modest budget request, they can't manage to find a way to lend a hand."

BWC Rebate: In the wake of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's announcement that it is issuing an employer premium rebate to the tune of \$1.5 billion, the Ohio Association of Justice is questioning a challenge to an appellate court ruling that found some "scheduled loss awards" should be paid in lump sums.

BWC was paying those awards to workers who suffer amputations or loss of use due to industrial injuries on a biweekly basis.

"It is time to ask, when did the Ohio workers' compensation system stop being about injured workers?" John Van Doorn, government affairs director, said in a release. "We are all in favor of job creation in this state, but let's share some of the BWC's financial surplus with the injured workers who the system was constitutionally created to protect."

Advocate Seeks KY Seat: Longtime Ohio Statehouse fixture Col Owens is looking to enter the other side of the legislative political realm - just in another state.

Mr. Owens, who served for 30 years as senior attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio and was involved in Advocates for Ohio's Future and other groups backing health and human services funding, is running as a Democrat in Kentucky's 69th House District.

The lifelong Kentucky resident's candidacy is the subject of a fundraiser next month at the home of former Ohio Rep. Ted Celeste and wife Bobbie, 1230 Oakland Ave. in Grandview Heights.

Those interested in attending or seeking more information on the event, set for 5:30-7 p.m. May 10, should RSVP to Cathy Levine at cathyjlevine@gmail.com or 614-313-7478.

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For questions about Gongwer bill tracking services, contact Gongwer at gongwer@gongwer-oh.com or 614.221.1992.

Governor's Appointments

Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees: Rick Ritzler of Galena (Delaware Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending August 31, 2023.

Waterways Safety Council: Amy Dingle of Dayton (Montgomery Co.) has been appointed to the for a term beginning April 25, 2018, and ending January 30, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Friday, April 27

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, May 9

Veterinary Medical Licensing Board, Rm. 1914, 77 S. High St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, April 26

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, 30 W. Spring St., Room 3 on Level 2, Columbus, 8 a.m.
Facilities Construction Commission, Rm. 121, Statehouse, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000, Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf^e, 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 11:02 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Request is First Step to Fixing a Broken System



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Medicaid Waiver Request is First Step to Fixing a Broken System

Columbus, OH -- Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at **The Buckeye Institute** and vice president of policy issued the following statement on the **submission of the Medicaid work and community engagement waiver** by the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

"Ohio's waiver request is an important step in reforming the state's health care system, and while we applaud this initial step, we are disappointed that the waiver is not part of a broader and bolder Medicaid reform package," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the **Economic Research Center** at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy. "The good news is, if approved, this waiver will ensure that needy and vulnerable citizens will continue to benefit from Medicaid while encouraging healthy, able-bodied adults to gain new skills and employment, and obtain private insurance coverage that offers better health care coverage. This waiver is a good start, but Ohio should continue to reform and improve its Medicaid program to help lift people up and out of the program while protecting the traditional and vulnerable Medicaid population."

A nationally recognized expert in health care policy, Hederman submitted **public comments** on Ohio's two Medicaid waiver proposals -- the work and community engagement waiver and the state innovation or 1332 waiver. He was one of the first in the

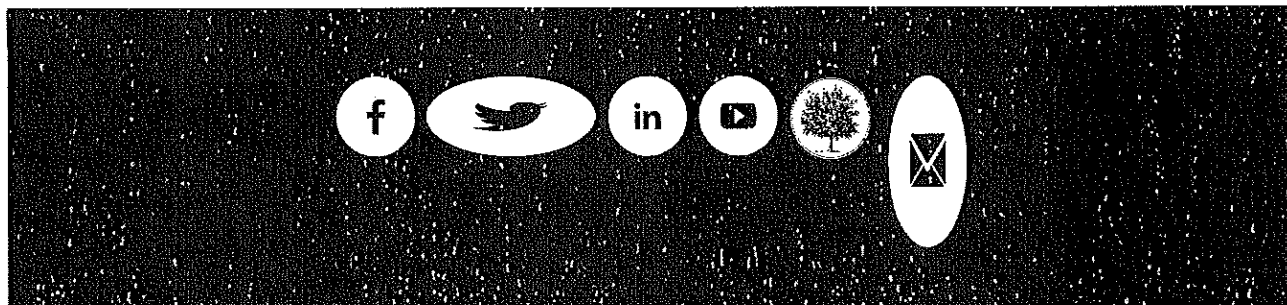
nation to propose using section 1332 waivers as a way to allow states to waive parts of the Affordable Care Act and take back the ability to regulate their insurance markets. Hederman and co-author Dennis G. Smith outlined this approach in their report *Returning Health Care Power to the States*.

In *Federal Efforts to Stabilize ACA Individual Markets through State Innovation*, Hederman and co-author Doug Badger argued that Congress and the federal government should empower states to devise new ways to make health insurance more affordable for more people.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: New Buckeye Institute Research Finds Bail Reform Could Save Ohio Communities \$67 Million



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

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May 2, 2018

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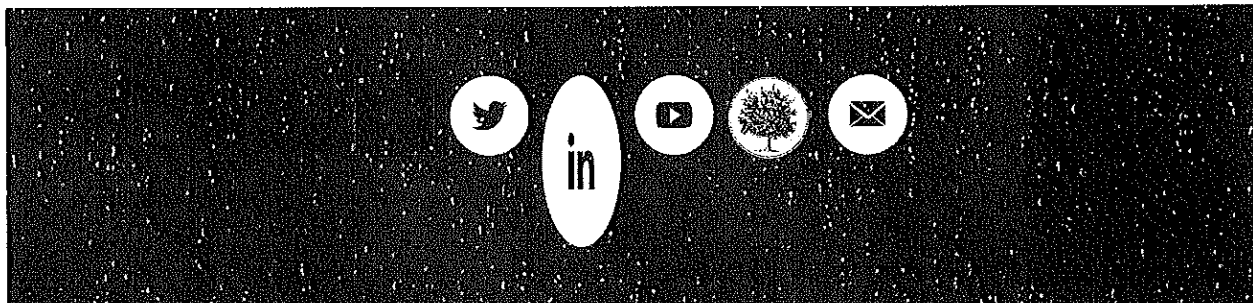
New Buckeye Institute Research Finds Bail Reform Could Save Ohio Communities \$67 Million

Columbus, OH -- New research by **The Buckeye Institute** found that Ohio's proposed reforms to its broken cash bail system could save an estimated \$67 million in jail costs, while providing a fairer, more efficient way to keep Ohio's communities safe and secure.

"Ohio's cash bail system is broken and the reforms pending in the General Assembly could save hard-earned taxpayer dollars while keeping our communities safe," said Daniel J. Dew, a legal fellow with Buckeye's **Legal Center** and the author of *"Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*. "Even setting aside important issues of justice, fairness, and public safety that have all been compromised by the current money bail system, the needless amount of money spent jailing people accused of low-level crimes alone is enough to justify Ohio's proposed bail reform initiative."

In this new research, *The Ohio Model for Bail Reform: Retaining Local Flexibility and Saving Money*, Dew, and analysts with Buckeye's **Economic Research Center**, looked at Summit County, which uses a verified risk-assessment tool to inform pretrial detention decisions. They found that Ohio could see an annual cost savings of \$67,136,121 if it reforms its cash bail system and gives judges greater flexibility to use proven, evidence-based, risk-assessment tools to assess the risk an individual poses to the community rather than relying on cash bail.

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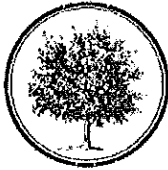
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The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Unemployment Rate and Job Growth Moving in the Right Direction

Columbus, OH -- Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., an economist at The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center (ERC)** commented on newly released employment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"Ohio's unemployment rate continued its downward trend from 4.7 percent in January to 4.5 percent in February, showing positive trends in the state's labor market. The report also revealed a relatively unchanged labor force participation rate, which implies that those who were searching for jobs found them. This is good news for job seekers.

"However, Ohio still sits above the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, and with a lower labor force participation rate than the national average. This shows that Ohio still

needs further reforms to create and sustain job growth, and one area ripe for **reform is occupational licensing**.

"Ohio experienced another great job creation month with a 19,600 increase in non-farm private employment in February 2018, more than double the growth from January 2018. This marks consistent gains over the past two months, indicating Ohio's labor market is continuing to expand. Nearly every sector experienced job growth, with substantial increases in manufacturing (2,900) and health care and social assistance (3,700). Employment in the health care industry will be important to responding to the health needs of an aging population in Ohio. Although there was a decrease in employment in arts, entertainment, and recreation, special interest tax credits for the entertainment industry are **not a cost-effective policy solution** to increasing growth in this industry.

"Ohio is continuing to see positive job growth path, yet an unchanged labor force participation rate is concerning as it shows some individuals are discouraged from job searching. Occupational licensing reform can reduce those disincentives, and, combined with eliminating special interest tax credits, will help Ohio to reach its goal of being a national leader in job creation."

###

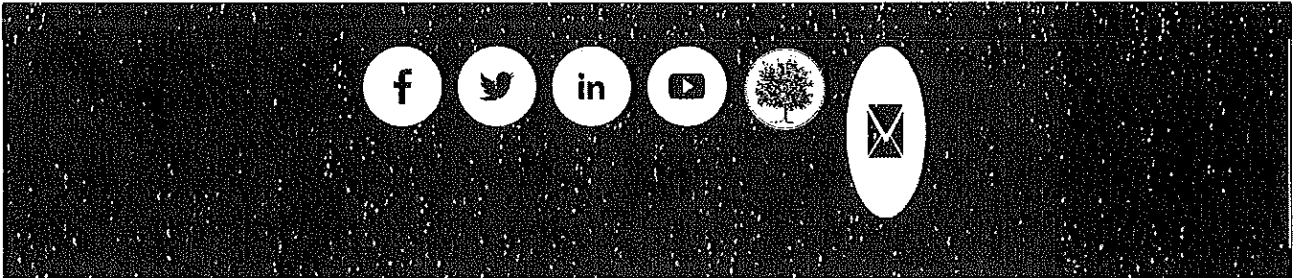
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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Changes coming to education consolidation bill

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Monday, March 26, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Rotunda Rumblings

= 9 **Substitute bill in the works:** Rep. Bill Reineke is working on revising his bill that strips power from the state education department and school board and gives it to the governor. He said he is working with people who are concerned about the bill. The school board, the Ohio Education Association and the Ohio Federation of Teachers oppose it. However, many in business support the bill, including Vince Squillace of the Ohio Homebuilders Association, who testified last week, saying there are not enough skilled trades workers. He said "training our work force should stand alongside other academic priorities."

= 9 **Cream of the crop:** Wondering which legislative races to keep an eye on during primary election night? Here are Capitol Letter's Top 10 Ohio House Republican primaries to watch in 2018. And if you haven't already, make sure to check out which races made our list of the Top 10 Ohio House Democratic primaries.

= 9 **Taking the sting out of beekeeping:** A bill that would protect beekeepers who are registered with the Department of Agriculture from liability if someone is stung or hurt by their hive equipment is headed to the Senate. The House passed House Bill 392 last week.

= 9

Painting happy trees: A new House bill would license art therapists in Ohio, which its sponsor said would promote the profession as effective in treating people who need help with avoidance, trauma and developmental disabilities. Rep. Marlene Anielski, who is sponsoring House Bill 557, told members of the House Health Committee last week that research of veterans diagnosed with PTSD showed art therapy was more effective than talk therapy.

= 9

Script for a horror film? The conservative Buckeye Institute is joining its liberal counterpart, Policy Matters Ohio, in opposition to increasing the state's film tax credit to \$100 million a year. Broadway productions could also qualify for the credit under House Bill 525. But the Buckeye Institute said that Massachusetts had to cut spending to pay for its film credit, which resulted in 1,400 jobs lost and only 222 jobs gained by the credit. The bill is sponsored by the No. 2 in House GOP leadership, Rep. Kirk Schuring, and co-sponsored by House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger -- meaning it has a good chance of becoming law.

= 9 **Keep calm and budget on:** State Auditor Dave Yost has some reassuring words for local governments facing a declaration of fiscal emergency. "It's not as bad as most fear," asserts the Republican, who's running for attorney general, in a new report. The report goes into detail about what various municipalities around the state did to get out of fiscal emergency. Most of the solutions, not surprisingly, involved either raising revenue or cutting expenses.

= 9

Stories We're Talking About

= 9 **Trump to visit Northeast Ohio:** President Donald Trump is set to visit Richfield in Summit County Thursday to discuss his infrastructure initiatives, according to cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton.

= 9 **Sexism in politics:** Democratic secretary of state candidate Kathleen Clyde and Republican treasurer candidate Sandy O'Brien agree that two big challenges for women candidates in Ohio are fundraising and networking. But as cleveland.com's Mary Kilpatrick writes, O'Brien considers it a more debilitating issue than Clyde, "perhaps because of their respective places on opposite sides of the aisle."

= 9 **Filibuster fan:** On the latest episode of cleveland.com's "Ohio Matters" podcast, Attorney General Mike DeWine says he's proud of the work he did as a U.S. senator to keep the filibuster for judicial nominees. DeWine said Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor is "dead wrong" to criticize him for it.

= 9 **Getting an opioid fix:** State and federal officials floated several ideas last week about how to address the ongoing opioid addiction crisis, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports. National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, speaking at Ohio State University, said research will be crucial to stop overdose deaths and treat addiction. U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta announced \$21 million in anti-opioid job-training grants. And Mike DeWine backed the Ohio State Chiropractic Association's call for greater awareness of chiropractor care for pain patients.

= 9 **Bill dead:** A bill that was to reduce the annual cost of living adjustment to state retirees in an attempt to shore up the Ohio Public Employees Retirement system is dead, reports the Columbus Dispatch's Catherine Candisky. Retirees complained to lawmakers that they made their decisions about when to retire based on the current 3 percent increase, and there are not enough votes for House Bill 413.

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Marching on: Thousands of protesters called for increased gun control during "March For Our Lives" rallies on Saturday in Cincinnati, Columbus,

and Cleveland, among other major cities in Ohio and nationwide.

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Trigger warning: Gov. John Kasich said Sunday on CNN that voters should oust lawmakers who don't enact reforms to address gun violence. "If they do not bring about change, I think people should absolutely be held accountable at the ballot box," the governor said.

= 9 **Different aims:** One Ohio legislator, Sen. Joe Uecker, didn't see eye to eye on gun reforms with student activists during a meeting last week. The Clermont County Republican told the students an assault weapons ban would restrict too many guns. He said they would save more lives if they focused on traffic safety instead. "I just think they don't have a full understanding of what the problem is," Uecker said of the students, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer's Chrissie Thompson.

= 9 **What's the Plan now?** There are worries about the future of the state's "Youngstown Plan," passed in 2015 to rescue the city's ailing school district by putting it under state control. The Vindicator's Amanda Tonoli writes that many of the original players with the plan are jumping ship, including the district's CEO.

= 9 **Ackison attacks:** Republican U.S. Senate candidate Melissa Ackison, speaking with the Sandusky Register on Friday, didn't have very nice words for primary frontrunner Jim Renacci or the Ohio Republican Party's decision to endorse him. As the Register's Tom Jackson writes, Ackison said the state party's endorsement has "decimated" people's faith in the process. "Jim Renacci, you could put a bow on his head and give him as a gift to Sen. Brown because Brown will destroy Renacci," she added.

= 9

Tales from the trail: The four major Democratic candidates for governor have been hitting the campaign trail hard in recent weeks, and the Dispatch's Marty Schladen has been tagging along with them. Among the things he learned: Richard Cordray conceded it wasn't ideal to stay out of the race until December but said he felt an "obligation" to stay at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau until he hammered out a payday lending rule, among other things. Bill O'Neill, meanwhile, is only now starting to fill his schedule with campaign activities and said he's still in the race because he couldn't push Cordray into supporting marijuana

legalization.

= 9 **Sticking around:** Contrary to Democratic chatter (or wishful thinking), Republican U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot has no plans to retire. As the Enquirer's Jason Williams writes, "Republicans say Chabot is ready to do battle with Democratic up-and-comer Aftab Pureval in Ohio's 1st Congressional District."

= 9 **Full Disclosure**

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Five things we learned from Akron Democratic Sen. Vernon Sykes' May 15 ethics disclosure statement.

= 9 1. In 2016, he wasn't in the General Assembly but worked as a political science professor and director of the Columbus Program in State Issues at Kent State University, earning between \$50,000 and \$99,999. He drew \$50,000 to \$99,999 from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. And he earned \$10,000 to \$24,999 in rental income that year.

= 9 2. He was a board member of the Akron Area YMCA and the Child Guidance and Family Solutions last year. He was on Summa Health's government relations committee and a partner in Vernon and Barbara Skyes and Associates, a property rental company.

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3. In addition to investing in OPERS, he has mutual funds with Lincoln Financial, the State Teachers Retirement System and Ohio Deferred Compensation.

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4. In addition to his primary residence, he owned property on Rich Street in Columbus and Howard Street in Akron.

= A 5. He owed at least \$1,000 each in 2016 to Chase, American Express, Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank and Capital One.

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On the Move

= 9 Columbiana County Common Pleas Court Magistrate Kathleen J.

Bartlett was appointed by Gov. John Kasich on Friday to fill Ohio Supreme Court Justice Mary DeGeraro's vacant seat on the Seventh District Court of Appeals.

= 9

Guy Coviello, the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber's vice president of government affairs, has been named by Kasich to the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission.

= 9 **What's Going On**

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10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. *Ohio Department of Public Safety atrium, 1970 W. Broad St.*

= 9 **10 a.m. – Press conference on gun violence prevention legislation:** Democratic Sen. Cecil Thomas will be joined by local gun safety advocates to announce a package of bills. *Washington Park, 1230 Elm St., Cincinnati.*

= 9 **1:30 p.m. – Controlling Board.** *North Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

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1:30 p.m. – Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

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2 p.m. – Mary Taylor to campaign in Seneca, Ottawa counties: The lieutenant governor and GOP gubernatorial candidate has stops planned in Tiffin at 2 p.m. and Port Clinton at 4 p.m.

= 9 **6 to 7 p.m. – Joe Schiavoni to hold town hall on fertility center errors:** The Democratic gubernatorial candidate and state senator plans to talk about freezer problems at clinics in Cleveland and California that may have damaged thousands of eggs and embryos. *Newburgh Heights Community Center, 3801 Harvard Ave., Newburgh Heights.*

= 9

6 p.m. – Secretary of State/LG candidate Jon Husted to keynote Pike County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner. *World Alive Fellowship, 204 Commercial Blvd., Piketon.*

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

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"Marching, holding rallies, communicating with our public officials wasn't enough (to the point) that we had to be more involved directly. There are many people who are very qualified like us who might not have been interested in working in politics who are now stepping up, putting our money where our mouth is and saying we're going to take this risk and run for office."

= 9 - Democrat Lauren Friedman of Jackson Township, who is running for the Ohio Senate against Republican Kirk Schuring, who is now the influential speaker pro tempore in the House. Friedman and Democrat Lorraine Wilburn, who is in an Ohio House race against Scott Oelslager, the powerful chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, were profiled by the Canton Repository.

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From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 7:04 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: The Buckeye Institute Names Dr. Andrew Kidd as New Economist with its Economic Research Center

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Names Dr. Andrew Kidd as New Economist with its Economic Research Center

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute announced today that Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., has joined its **Economic Research Center** as a senior level economist. In this role, Kidd will conduct and produce original economic research that looks at and analyzes the impact of state and federal policies on peoples' lives and on the economy.

"We are pleased to have **Dr. Kidd** join our team and help lead our efforts to produce reliable economic research and data analysis that looks at how government policies and proposals impact state budgets and our wallets," said Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute. "This type of research is vital for policymakers around the country as they work to understand how their proposals will affect government revenues, economic growth, and job creation."

A native Ohioan, Kidd received his bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from the **University of Notre Dame** before completing his master's degree and his doctorate in economics from the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**. Kidd has served as a research assistant at the **UW Population Health Institute** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was involved in research that looked at the impact of premium policy changes to BadgerCare, Wisconsin's health care coverage program for low-income Wisconsin residents.

During his time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kidd's research focus was in demography, education, labor outcomes, and the effects of public policy on labor, education, and health outcomes.

Tyler Shankel also joined Buckeye's Economic Research Center as an economic policy analyst. Shankel earned his bachelor's degree in economics and a minor in Persian from **The Ohio State University**. There, he worked on a comprehensive policy analysis project examining land tenure reform on Indian reservations, and other policy issues relating to economic development in Native American communities. He attended the **University of Colorado Boulder's** economics doctorate program before returning to Columbus.

"Andrew and Tyler are great additions to our team and their work and research will benefit not just policymakers in Ohio and throughout the country, but it will benefit ordinary citizens who want to know how budgetary and tax policy proposals will affect them and pocketbooks," said Rea S. Hederman, executive director of the Economic Research Center and vice president of policy at The Buckeye Institute.

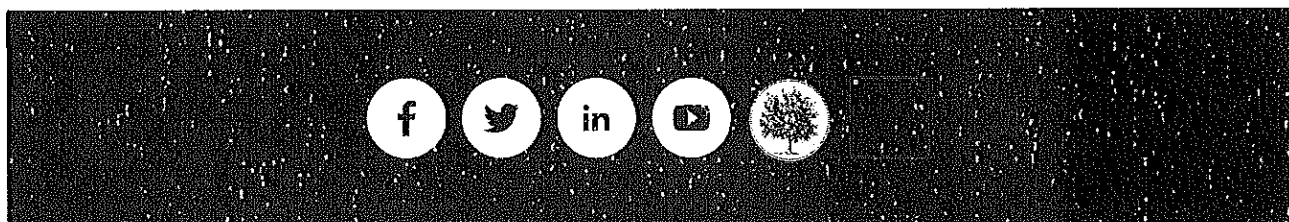
The Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute provides reliable economic research, data analysis, and econometric modeling at the state level. Using a macroeconomic dynamic scoring model -- developed by economists at the Economic Research Center -- ERC research shows how even small policy changes affect state budgets, citizens' pocketbooks, and individual behavior.

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Senator seeks to stop cities from taxing execs' golden parachutes

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Wednesday, March 28, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Rotunda Rumblings

= 9 **Dropping the 'golden parachute' tax?** Cities are likely going to kiss goodbye income taxes from golden parachutes and other financial windfalls parting executives receive. Ohio Senate Pro Tempore Bob Peterson told Capitol Letter Tuesday that he's helping draft an amendment to a soon-to-be identified bill that will no longer treat the money -- technically called supplemental executive retirement plans (SERPs) -- as taxable income. Instead, SERPs will be subject to taxes as they're drawn throughout retirement. Cities will get hit if the General Assembly adopts the measure, the Ohio Municipal League's Kent Scarrett said.

= 9

Abbreviated history: Ohio cities and the legislature have been at odds over SERPs for years. Both sides agreed to leave the benefits out of the municipal tax overhaul legislation in 2014, since the Ohio Supreme Court

was about to weigh in on the issue. In the fall, the court sided with a SERP recipient that his money wasn't taxable income. Peterson argues the court's decision means the legislature needs to clarify that SERPs are not subject to municipal income tax. He said the amendment will come in the next two months. Scarrett, however, believes the two cities affected by the Supreme Court decision simply had poorly written tax laws, and that the decision doesn't apply across the state.

= 9 **Pop off the cap:** When people are injured in a car accident or hurt in a slip and fall, the amount of money they can receive in punitive damages is generally capped under Ohio law, said Sen. John Eklund, who is an attorney. However, there's an exception when a defendant intended to cause someone harm. Then the cap is lifted. Eklund wants to expand the exemption to allow people to collect more damages when a crime has been committed -- for instance if someone was injured by a drunken driver who was convicted of aggravated vehicular assault. Eklund= 2s Senate Bill 280 would allow the cap to be lifted if someone has been convicted of a felony in criminal court.

= 9 **Health-care equality:** A handful of Ohio public hospitals and health care systems were recognized in a new Human Rights Campaign report for LGBTQ inclusion. That means employee training for non-discrimination, transgender services and support or having pro-gay employee policies. Those singled out: MetroHealth, University of Toledo Medical Center, Columbus Public Health Department and Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center, as well as OSU's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

= 9 **Yes on 1:** Ohio GOP leadership on Tuesday night endorsed Issue 1, the congressional redistricting plan, the party announced on Twitter. Last month, Ohio Democratic Party leaders also voted to support the bipartisan proposal.

= 9 **Candidate endorsement roundup:** Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rich Cordray on Tuesday was backed by The Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4).

= 9 The Lake County Republican Party on Monday endorsed U.S. Senate

candidate Jim Renacci.

= 9

Ohio 12th Congressional District Republican candidate Melanie Leneghan has picked up the support of Ohio Value Voters, an anti-abortion group.

= 9 Ohio 12th Congressional District Democratic candidate Danny O'Connor has won the backing of the Sheet Metal Workers International Union and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District 6.

= 9 Rep. Christina Hagan, a GOP candidate for Ohio's 16th Congressional District, has been endorsed by another anti-abortion group, the Susan B. Anthony List.

= 9 **Local support?** The Franklin County Democratic Party's executive committee is slated to vote Wednesday on endorsing Cordray for governor. Cordray, who lives in south suburban Columbus, has already scored endorsements from a large number of Franklin County Democrats, including Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, ex-Mayor Michael Coleman, and Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin. Things could get interesting, though, as primary rivals Joe Schiavoni and Dennis Kucinich are expected to be at the meeting along with Cordray.

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

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Stranger than fiction: The weird drama in a Dayton-area House race continued Tuesday, with challenger Jocelyn Smith calling for Republican Rep. Rick Perales to step down and to take a lie detector test, Lynn Hulsey of the Dayton Daily News reports. Perales has denied Smith's accusation that he choked and kissed her three years ago, but he acknowledges that he carried on a sexting relationship with her. She said she would release text messages between them if he didn't resign. House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger is reviewing the allegations, Hulsey reports.

= 9 **Gaming it out:** "The Ohio Casino Control Commission is expected on April 23 to launch a new system to license and regulate games of skill such as claw machines that nab prizes or arcade games that issue tokens or tickets," cleveland.com's Karen Farkas reports. A 2015 state law gave the commission oversight of the games, and it has been drafting rules and

license fees for them.

= 9 **Eyes on Ohio:** NBC News listed the Ohio Democratic and Republican governor's primaries among the 10 "most compelling, contentious or consequential primaries to watch."

= 9 **Kasich and Cuban:** Gov. John Kasich will be on a panel with businessman Mark Cuban at Ohio State University Monday to talk about the impact of automation and innovation, the Columbus Dispatch's Randy Ludlow reports. It's part of the Axios "Smarter Faster Revolution" tour.

= 9

It's ugly: Ludlow also has an update on the increasingly nasty and personal Republican governor's race between Attorney General Mike DeWine and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor.

= 9 **Five Questions**

= 9 Giulia Cambieri is deputy communications director for the Ohio Senate Democrats.

= 9 *1. You don't have the usual background of an Ohio legislative staffer. How did you make it to the Ohio General Assembly?*

= 9

"I was born and raised in Italy. I moved here three years ago – my husband is American and works and lives in Columbus. At the time, I was living in London – that's where we met -- and it was just easier for me to move across the Atlantic than for him at the time. My background is in journalism, so when I moved here three years ago, I decided I wanted to switch from journalism, and I started looking for jobs."

= 9

2. What is the difference between journalism here versus in Europe?

= 9 "Where I'm from, and I lived both in Italy and in France, journalists have more of almost, like, an intellectual role. Reporters are significant, but for the most part, journalists are expected to give their opinions."

= 9 *3. Are you planning to stay in Ohio for good?*

= A = 2We're not sure. At some point, we would probably like to get close to one side of our family, and that's probably going to be my husband's side, which lives in the Boston area. But we don't really have a time frame for when that's going to happen, so I see myself in Columbus for at least another two years – and then, who knows?

= 9 4. *What would you be doing if you weren't doing your current job?*

= 9 "Probably open a cafe with a book shop next to it. I love reading and just the culture of American cafes."

= 9

5. *Any book recommendations?*

= 9 "I recently finished reading *The Power* by Naomi Alderman. It's really good, and I just love how she reverses gender stereotypes. It's quite impressive to think that she wrote it before the election of President Trump, because it's definitely reminiscent of a lot of the themes that came out during the campaign."

= 9

On The Move

= 9 Andrew Kidd has joined the conservative Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center as a senior level economist. He will analyze the impact of state and federal policies on peoples' lives and the economy. Kidd most recently researched BadgerCare, Wisconsin's low-income health coverage program, at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

= 9 Tyler Shankel also joined Buckeye's Economic Research Center as an economic policy analyst. He earned a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and attended University of Colorado Boulder's economics doctorate program before returning to Columbus.

= 9 What's Going On Today

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9:15 a.m. – David Pepper to meet with reporters outside DeWine-Husted event: Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper is scheduled to hold a media availability in advance of a Mike DeWine and

Jon Husted panel on entrepreneurship. *Outside of Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd.*

= 9 **10 a.m. – Mike DeWine, Jon Husted to discuss entrepreneurship:** The Republican gubernatorial ticket is set to hold a panel discussion with Ohio entrepreneurs. *Rev1 Ventures, 1275 Kinnear Rd.*

= 9 **10 a.m. – Mary Taylor continues Western Ohio campaign tour:** The lieutenant governor and GOP gubernatorial candidate's schedule includes stops in Urbana at 10 a.m., Bellefontaine at 1 p.m., and Celina at 4 p.m.

= 9

10 a.m. – State Personnel Board of Review. *12th floor, 65 E. State St., Columbus.*

= 9 **1 p.m. – Rob Portman to visit Utica ice-cream maker:** The Republican U.S. senator is set to tour Velvet Ice Cream headquarters as part of his "Results for the Middle-Class Tax Reform Tour." *1324 Mt. Vernon Rd., Utica.*

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1:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Commission of Ohio meeting. *Room 11B, 180 E. Broad St.*

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6 to 8 p.m. – Franklin County Democratic Party Executive Committee meeting. *Columbus Firefighters Union, 379 W. Broad St.*

= 9 **6:30 to 8 p.m. – Rob Richardson for treasurer fundraiser:** The Cincinnati Democrat is seeking donations between \$250 and \$2,500. Scheduled attendees include Ohio Democratic Party Chair David Pepper and Cincinnati City Councilman PG Sittenfeld. Pepper's parents, Francie and John Pepper, are hosting the event at their Cincinnati home.

= 9 **Birthdays**

= 9 Terese Herhold, Ohio Senate Democrats' director of policy, budget and finance

= 9 Rep. Paul Zeltwanger

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

= 9

"As a former cop, I saw how devastating gun violence is to our communities. Not too long ago I knelt next to a young man who was shot and left dying in the street. Now that I'm in this position, it has given me a new energy to combat this problem. #Enough."

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- State Sen. Cecil Thomas, a Cincinnati Democrat, touting on Twitter Tuesday a package of gun-control legislation he is sponsoring.

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From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 6:16 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Bill aims to force online travel sites to pay more sales, lodging taxes

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Monday, April 2, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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= 9 Columbus Catholics stop at the Ohio Statehouse during Stations of the Cross Friday and pray for the abolition of the death penalty. (Laura Hancock/Capitol Letter)

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= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **Hotel bills:** A new House bill would require online travel companies such as Expedia to pay sales and lodging taxes on the rate they sell the room for. The firms currently just pay taxes on wholesale prices. House Bill 571 sponsor Rep. Dave Greenspan said hotel rates will not increase because companies and not customers will pay the increased taxes. Greenspan said customers are generally charged extra fees anyway that go straight into the online companies' pockets and are not shared with local governments.

= 9**Opposition:** Micah Derry of Americans for Prosperity of Ohio is leading the opposition to what he's calling a #GreenspanTax on social media. He said that travelers will inevitably be stuck with higher priced hotel rooms because online travel companies will pass the tax increase on.

= 9 **PUCO responds to FirstEnergy bankruptcy:** Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Chairman Asim Haque said in a 12:15 a.m. Sunday statement that the Akron utility's bankruptcy reorg filing is not a surprise, that Wall Street had anticipated it. He said customers will continue to have electricity. PUCO doesn't regulate nuclear power plants, but it has authority over power lines. Haque said PUCO agreed in 2016 to allow FirstEnergy's parent company to charge customers an additional \$540 million over the next three years to help ensure grid reliability and modernization, and that fee can be extended for two years.

= 9

Kasich signs bills: Gov. John Kasich signed a handful of bills Friday, including: Senate Bill 226, which will make permanent a three-day, back-to-school-shopping sales tax holiday; S.B. 22, which will allow tax deductible contributions for K-12 education expenses in Ohio 529 savings plans; and H.B. 98, which will allow representatives of tech schools or skilled trades to visit high schools at least twice a year.

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From: Willamowski, Sheila
Sent: Monday, April 2, 2018 1:33 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: RE: ALEC Gala PRR

Thank you, Carolyn!

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 11:28 AM
To: Willamowski, Sheila <Sheila.Willamowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALEC Gala PRR

Hi Sheila,

I do not have any records pertaining to the ALEC Gala PRR.

Thank you,

Carolyn Best

Director of Communications
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger/Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office Phone: 614.644.1739
Cell Phone: 740.815.9635

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:45 AM
To: 'cmcypret@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: Bill aims to force online travel sites to pay more sales, lodging taxes

From: Capitol Letter [mailto:cleveland.com_newsletters@update.cleveland.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 6:16 AM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Bill aims to force online travel sites to pay more sales, lodging taxes

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From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 9:48 AM
To: dittoemr@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Bill aims to force online travel sites to pay more sales, lodging taxes

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Capitol Letter
<cleveland.com_newsletters@update.cleveland.com>
Date: April 2, 2018 at 6:15:44 AM EDT
To: carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov
Subject: Bill aims to force online travel sites to pay more sales, lodging taxes
Reply-To: Capitolletter@cleveland.com

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3. He has a mutual fund with American Funds, life insurance each with Mass Mutual and Northwest Mutual, and has invested in the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System and Ohio Deferred Compensation.
4. He received baseball tickets valued at \$184 from the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association on July 9, 2016. He went golfing Aug. 31, 2016, and the Ohio Credit Union League and Affiliates picked up \$55 in greens and cart fees. He got two free breakfasts in 2016 – one worth \$10 from the Ohio Automobile Dealers Association and another worth \$16 from the University of Akron.
5. The state reimbursed him \$5,110.96 in mileage between Columbus and home when he was a representative. The U.S. Air Force Reserve reimbursed him \$1,100 for travel. He is on the Youngstown Air Base Council.

What's Going On Today

11 a.m. – John Kasich, Mark Cuban to attend Axios forum: The Ohio governor, the billionaire businessman, and the co-founders of the news website Axios plan to discuss the impact of automation and innovation on the future of work. *Performance Hall, Ohio Union, Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St.*

1 p.m. – State Board of Education Executive Committee meeting. *Ohio Department of Education, 25 S. Front St.*

4:45 p.m. – Mary Taylor to campaign in north central Ohio: The lieutenant governor and GOP gubernatorial candidate has stops planned in Mt. Gilead at 4:45 p.m. and Bucyrus at 6:30 p.m.

6 to 7:30 p.m. – Exonerated death-row inmate to discuss Ohio's death penalty: Joe D'Ambrosio will participate in a discussion about wrongful convictions and Ohio's death penalty in a forum sponsored by the

OSU chapter of Amnesty International. *Tanya Rutner Hartman room, Ohio Union, Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St.*

7 to 11 p.m. – Joe Schiavoni to hold March Madness fundraiser:
Admission is \$50 (including food and beer) for the event featuring the Democratic candidate for governor. *Cocca's Pizza, 7144 Market St., Boardman.*

Birthdays

James M. Cox, Ohio's 46th and 48th governor, 1920 Democratic presidential nominee (1870-1957)

Straight From The Source

"My family is in Iceland and Amsterdam. If I went there, the press would really pass out. I just go across state lines."

-Gov. John Kasich on Friday, joking about how he can't accompany his family on their overseas travels.

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 4:23 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Reacts to Proposed Increase to Ohio's Overtime Threshold

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Reacts to Proposed Increase to Ohio's Overtime Threshold

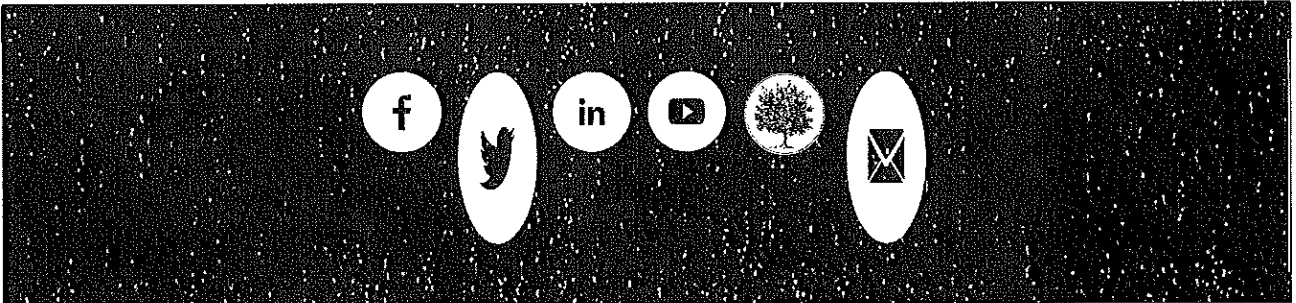
Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement regarding the proposal to raise the threshold for salaried employees to be eligible for overtime.

"All Ohioans should earn a fair wage for the work they do. Unfortunately, this proposed increase to the overtime threshold will not accomplish this laudable goal. Employers will look for ways to ensure there are no net increases to their employee costs, including lowering base salaries and layoffs," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "The real answer to stagnating wages in Ohio is to create more jobs and higher paying jobs. This will empower workers to be able to find alternative employment if they are not being given a fair shake by their current employer."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 7:05 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Ending Burdensome Regulations is a Promise Ohio Leaders Should Make Today, By Greg R. Lawson

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ending Burdensome Regulations is a Promise Ohio Leaders Should Make Today

By Greg R. Lawson

April 4, 2018

Every Ohioan deserves the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their family, and few things have a greater impact on that than a growing economy.

Unfortunately, while the **latest Ohio job numbers** were solid, private-sector job growth remains below the national average and recent **research from The Ohio State University** found that "Ohio has witnessed a steady decline in its economic well-being, compared to the nation as a whole, for more than 60 years."

And while there are no silver bullet solutions to Ohio's job challenges, rolling back government red tape, particularly in the area of occupational licensing, can remove barriers to job opportunities and career advancement. As our President Robert Alt **has**

said of the burden imposed on Ohioans by the presence of too many rules, "This isn't just a story of the number of regulations, this is a story of people."

A **Gordian Knot** of rules hampers the prosperity of too many Ohioans as they become lost in a maze of rules, regulations, and government permission slips. Take **Jennifer McClellan** as an example.

Despite years of training and work experience in Minnesota, the Ohio State Medical Board denied Jennifer an Ohio license. According to the Board, she was ten days shy of the state's training requirements. The board failed to consider Jennifer's years of work experience and refused to honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. All Jennifer wanted to do was be closer to family and earn a living doing what she was passionate about. She was denied.

Or consider the experience of Dawn Hochwalt, a salon manager from Dayton, Ohio who sees first-hand how Ohio's burdensome regulations impact her employees and her business, with little to no benefit to public health and safety. She also sees the impact the rising costs of cosmetology school has on her colleagues whose wages are being garnished to repay student loans. As Hochwalt said recently, "When I was in school it cost around \$6,000 to go to school and get a license, now that cost is \$20,000 or more. That debt is putting a tremendous burden on young people and the 1,500 hours they need to earn their license means they are not able to get on the salon floor to earn a living and pay off their debt."

With every story like those of Jennifer and Dawn -- people who are blocked from prospering by government rules -- we are all poorer.

Some progress has been made. The Common Sense Initiative has begun to deal with regulatory overreach, prevent bad rules from going forward, and pared others down. However, the fact that all too many rules have yet to be wiped from the books represents a missed opportunity to be bolder and go further.

Worse, it is not clear that there is any stopping the continued growth of Ohio's rulebook - the Ohio Administrative Code. Occupational licensing bills, for example, **continue to proliferate**, which will add yet more regulations on Ohioans.

This is illustrated by the recently released report from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, **A Snapshot of Ohio Regulation in 2018**. This study found Ohio to

be one of the most heavily regulated states, with nearly 247,000 restrictions, which far outpaces neighbors like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

As The Buckeye Institute has shown in our studies, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, licensing hurts young and minority Ohioans at a disproportionate level. It forces them to comply with **permission-slip policies** that force them to obtain a piece of paper emblazoned with the word "license" just to make a living.

Ending these permission-slip policies is a promise that Ohio leaders should make today.

One way to do this is by pursuing policies that cut red tape, such as:

1. Embrace a stronger direction for the Common Sense Initiative so that it more aggressively rolls back burdensome rules that do little to nothing to protect Ohioans.
2. Empower the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review in ways such as those found in **current legislation** to ensure that regulations are regularly reviewed especially upon evidence of adverse impacts.
3. Ensure regulators are continually reviewing regulations by enacting a cap on new regulations such as the elimination of two rules for every new rule imposed. Leaders could also implement the Canadian province of British Columbia's regulatory cap policy that achieved a 37 percent reduction of regulatory requirements.
4. Make it the official policy of the state to seek the least restrictive form of regulation when a rule is necessary to protect the health and safety of Ohioans.
5. Give the General Assembly **greater tools** over licensure through a robust sunset review for existing licensure laws and a sunrise process for newly proposed licenses.

Calls for occupational licensing and regulatory reform have bi-partisan support. For example, calls to institute a regulatory reform have been made by leaders like Senate President Larry Obhof and echoed by Attorney General Mike DeWine, while reforms to occupational licensing has both Republican and Democrat champions. This is a positive sign but only the beginning of what is required.

All too often, Ohio creates permission-slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 6:16 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Lawsuit threat prompts new talks on 5G wireless bill

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Friday, April 6, 2018

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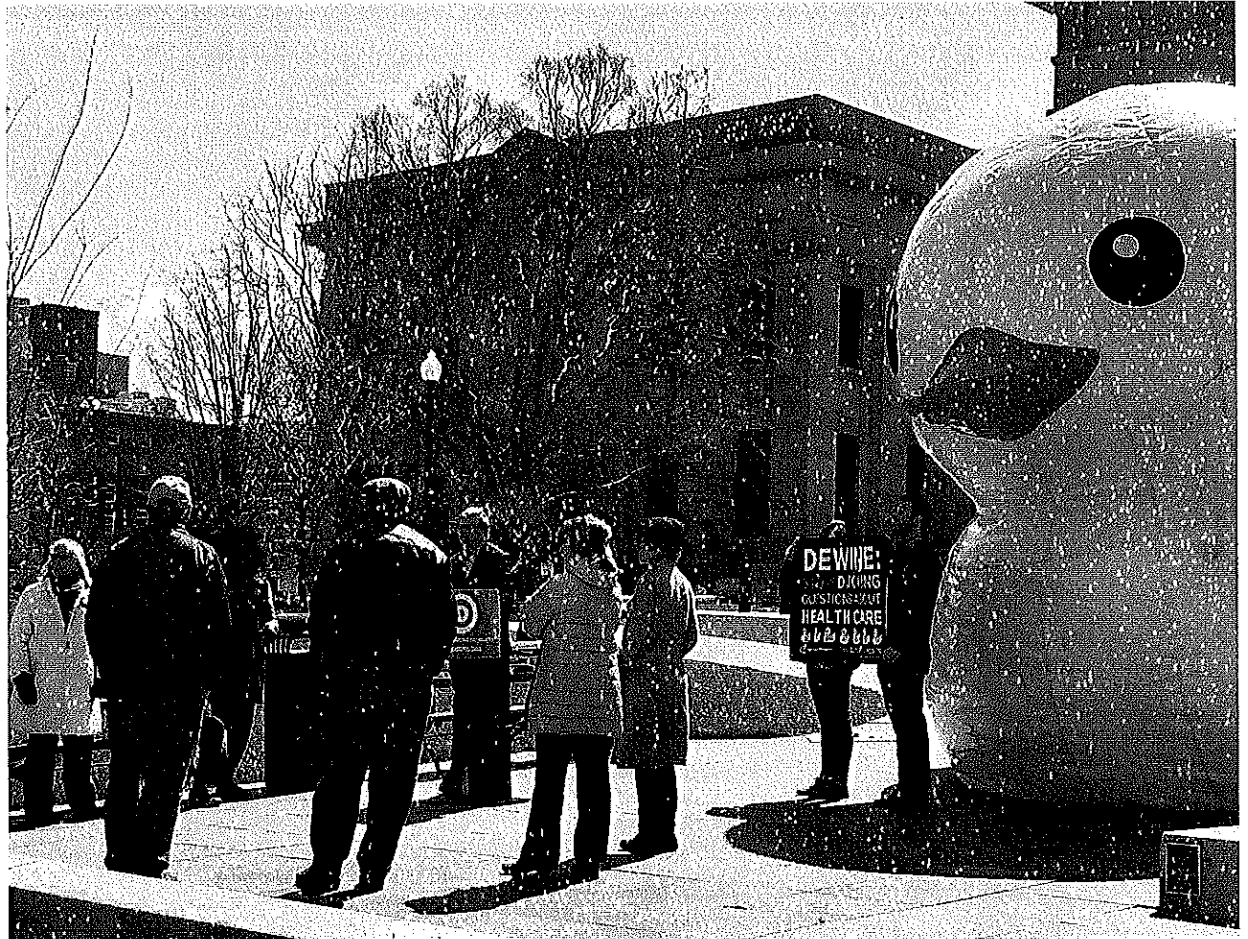
Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Ohio University health policy professor Daniel Skinner (behind podium) fields a question outside the Ohio Statehouse on Thursday next to a 15-foot-tall inflatable duck. The Ohio Democratic Party inflated the giant yellow bird to criticize Attorney General/GOP gubernatorial hopeful Mike DeWine for "ducking" questions about Medicaid expansion. DeWine's campaign spokesman said Medicaid expansion is unsustainable, and as governor he will redesign it – using waivers from the federal government – for more flexibility to address the opioid epidemic, among other ideas. (Jeremy Pelzer/Capitol Letter)

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= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9 **Bill off line:** Legislation that would limit what cities can charge telecommunications companies wanting to install small-cell antennae for 5G mobile networks has hit a snag. House Bill 478 had cleared the House

and was being considered by the Senate Public Utilities Committee. But a representative from Houston-based Crown Castle – which erects cell towers and leases them to mobile network providers – told lawmakers recently if the bill passes as currently drafted, the company will either sue Ohio or stop investing in the state. Crown Castle is one of three companies that dominates the U.S. cell tower market, according to Reuters.

= 9 **Back to the table:** Crown Wireless' Karmen Rajamani told senators that the company doesn't believe some of the bill's protections for telecomm would be extended to the company, which is why it opposes the bill as written. So senators have ordered a new round of negotiations on the bill, which Crown Castle and Kent Scarrett of the Ohio Municipal League are participating in. H.B. 478 was drafted after House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger told the cities and telecomm companies such as AT&T to hammer out a bill. Some cities sued over the legislature's first attempt to regulate small antennae in 2016.

= 9

Tax revenue exceeds predictions: State tax revenue in March beat projections by 2 percent, or nearly \$28 million, according to preliminary numbers released Thursday. The main reason was that non-auto sales and use tax revenue for the month was about \$30 million, or 5.1 percent, higher than expected. State Budget Director Tim Keen told Capitol Letter he's not yet sure what caused the sales-tax revenue bump. Income-tax revenue, meanwhile, fell below expectations for the second straight month. Keen said that's because of greater-than-expected refunds and the lingering effect of more taxpayers making quarterly estimated payments at the end of December in anticipation of new federal tax changes.

= 9

OD data: While county coroners report drug overdose deaths to the state, it's hard for the public and policymakers to know how many overdoses occur in all – including those in which a user survives. Rep. Theresa Gavarone's House Bill 535 would require hospitals to report each month how many overdoses they treat, which ones were fatalities and which ones were not. The Ohio News Media Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities all support the bill, arguing that better policy decisions will be made when people are better informed.

= 9 **School days:** No opponents have testified yet against a bill that would ban most out-of-school suspensions for students in preschool through third grade. Senate Bill 246, which also requires teachers to train in positive behavior management, has received three committee hearings and has support from a number of organizations, including Nationwide Children's Hospital, the Ohio Federation of Teachers and the Juvenile Justice Coalition. The bill requires that \$2 million in lottery profits be offered in grants to school districts for the training. A fiscal analysis says there could be an increase in costs for in-school suspensions, although the exact amount was not determined.

= 9 **NARAL backs Cordray, snubs Space:** The abortion-rights group NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio on Thursday endorsed Democrat Richard Cordray for governor. The group also backed the other Democratic candidates for statewide executive office, with the exception of state auditor candidate Zack Space. Kellie Copeland, NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio's executive director, told Capitol Letter that was because of Space's 2009 vote in Congress for the Stupak Amendment, an anti-abortion amendment attached to the House version of the Affordable Care Act.

= 9

Bluegrass backing: Republican gubernatorial candidate Mary Taylor on Thursday was endorsed by U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

= 9

Stories We're Talking About

= 9 **Mike and Mary match up:** It wasn't a debate, but an endorsement interview at cleveland.com headquarters on Thursday with Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and Mike DeWine was pretty close, writes cleveland.com's Andrew Tobias. Among other things, DeWine discussed Medicaid expansion, while Taylor discussed the moment she feels Gov. John Kasich may have begun to stray from "conservative principles" (it also involves Medicaid expansion).

= 9

Softer deadline: "State regulators confirmed Thursday that not all of Ohio's medical marijuana growers, product manufacturers and dispensaries will be up and running by the Sept. 8 deadline in law," cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports. For months, observers have doubted that the program would be 'fully operational' by the deadline.

= 9 **Nice work:** Cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton tells us which Ohio congressional offices had the highest and lowest staff turnover from 2001-2016. Using data gathered by LegiStorm, a Capitol Hill data production firm, Eaton reports that Rep. Tim Ryan had the lowest staff turnover rate of any current Ohio member of Congress. There's lots more in Eaton's report, which also has info on the highest and lowest congressional staff salaries.

= 9 **More protection:** Gov. John Kasich on Thursday signed a bill expanding civil protection orders to dating partners, Borchardt reports. "Ohio law previously allowed spouses, cohabitants and parents to seek protection orders but excluded people who weren't living together," Borchardt writes.

Will add link for the above item after bill signing at 5.

= 9

Gun bill emerges: Kasich's recommended changes to Ohio gun laws have made their way into a bill that was introduced Thursday, the Associated Press reports. Among the changes: a "red flag" law that would

temporarily strip gun rights from people who show warning signs of violence through a new gun violence restraining order," the AP reports.

= 9

Outside help for Balderson: A conservative super PAC has launched a six-figure cable-digital ad campaign in support of Republican Troy Balderson's campaign for Ohio's 12th Congressional District, according to Eric Garcia of Roll Call. The group Defending Main Street, which has sold itself as a foil to the Club for Growth, didn't disclose exactly how much it spent on the ad, which notes that Balderson was endorsed by Ohio Right To Life and voted to cut taxes as a state lawmaker.

= 9 **Condolences:** Mary Regula, the wife of the late U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, died Thursday at age 91, according to the Canton Repository. Among other accomplishments, Mary Regula founded the National First Ladies' Library in Canton.

= 9 **Five Questions**

= 9 Tim Kane is a Republican candidate for Ohio's 12th Congressional

District. The Dublin resident is an economist, author, and a veteran Air Force intelligence officer.

= 9

1. You've mentioned the need to work across the aisle and, specifically, to create a bipartisan caucus of military veterans if elected. How important is that to you to work with members of all parties?

= 9

"I'm a very principled conservative. ...But I want to bring a tone of respect to Washington, D.C. that I think has eroded. I've made a promise to my wife and myself that I will give people the benefit of the doubt, whether they're liberals or Democrats, instead of trying to misconstrue their words."

= 9 *2. Before the 2016 election, you wrote that you expected a Trump presidency to "cause a great deal of economic damage." Do you feel that prediction has come to pass?*

= 9 "Early in the Republican primary, I had picked a different team and had my doubts, as a lot of conservatives did, that President Trump maybe wasn't going to be a conservative. And he has really surprised us. So I have been delighted."

= 9 *3. Do you think that the president should fire special counsel Robert Mueller?*

= 9 "No, I think we need to respect the process. But let's recognize that it was born in a partisan fashion. What I would call for is a broader investigation. And I'm frankly shocked that Mueller was only empowered to look at Donald Trump. He should have been empowered and tapped to look at the corruption of the Clinton Global Initiative."

= 9

4. You moved back to the district in late 2017. Did you move back specifically to run for this seat?

= 9 "I've been working on a couple books. One's about the impact of immigration on Americans, and I wanted to move home to write that book. ...The run for Congress was a real surprise, and even though I lived here kindergarten through 12th grade, and I did move away when I joined the Air Force, I've always wanted to come back."

= 9

5. *Do you ever get confused with Tim Kaine, the U.S. senator who was Hillary Clinton's running mate?*

= 9 "A lot of people do get confused. When [Clinton] selected this guy to be her vice-presidential pick, CNN.com had my photo [up] for more than 24 hours."

= 9 **On the Move**

= 9 Rachel Petri, who was U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown's deputy communications director, has left Brown's D.C. office to become press secretary for his re-election campaign.

= 9 Melissa Dilley has left Gongwer News Service for a job with governmental affairs for the American Association of Service Coordinators.

= 9

Social conservative organization Citizens for Community Values announced that Curtis Wilson has joined the team as vice president of advancement. In the role, Curtis will spearhead efforts to support and serve Ohio churches, build strong ties with community allies and cultivate support with families throughout the state. He previously worked in major donor development at Americans for Prosperity, among other organizations.

= 9 **What's Going On Today**

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Friday 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Federalist Society's 2018 Ohio Lawyers Chapters Conference: Scheduled attendees include Acting Assistant U.S. Attorney General Chad A. Readler, State Auditor Dave Yost, Ohio Supreme Court Justices Mary DeGenaro and Sharon Kennedy, and Supreme Court candidates Craig Baldwin, Michael Donnelly, and Melody Stewart. *The Westin Columbus, 310 S. High St.*

= 9 **Friday 3 p.m. – Mary Taylor to campaign in Southwest Ohio:** The lieutenant governor and Republican gubernatorial candidate has stops planned in Eaton at 3 p.m., Cincinnati at 5 p.m., and Batavia at 7 p.m.

= 9 **Friday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Progressive town hall meeting and voter drive by #PowerToThePolls:** The event will feature comments from Women's March leaders and Nina Turner, president of OurRevolution. *Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.*

= 9

Saturday 8:30 a.m. – Move to Amend Ohio's annual statewide gathering: Scheduled speakers at the campaign-finance reform group's event include ex-U.S. Rep. Mary Jo Kilroy and Jessica Munger, Move To Amend's national program director. *First Unitarian Universalist Church, 93 W. Weisheimer Rd.*

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Saturday 9:30 a.m. – Mary Taylor to campaign in Brown County. *LaRosa's Pizza, 114 Glover Dr., Mount Orab.*

= 9 **Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Ohio Green Party state convention.** *2231 N. High St.*

= 9 **Saturday 1 to 3 p.m. – Ohio 12th Congressional District candidate debate.** *Hamilton-Williams Campus Center, Ohio Wesleyan University, 40 Rowland Ave., Delaware.*

= 9 **Saturday 6 to 8 p.m. – Dennis Kucinich to speak with best-selling author in Cleveland:** The Democratic candidate for governor plans to hold a conversation with author and lecturer Marianne Williamson. *Shaker Heights Unitarian Universalist Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights.*

= 9 **Sunday 6 to 8 p.m. – Joe Schiavoni to campaign in Tuscarawas County:** The Democratic candidate for governor is set to hold a "meet and greet" event. *Daily Grind Cafe, 153 W. High Ave., New Philadelphia.*

= 9 **Birthdays**

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Friday: Rep. Scott Ryan

= 9 Saturday: Sen. Edna Brown, Rep. Brian Hill

= 9 **Straight From The Source**

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"Believe it or not, I don't care. ...I don't mind supporting or opposing presidents in either party on trade."

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- Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, when asked by the Washington Post about the political ramifications of Republican President Donald Trump agreeing with him on the need for tariffs and other protectionist trade policies.

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From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 3:46 PM
To: Willamowski, Sheila; Lenzo, Mike; Kasych, Shawn; Best, Carolyn
Subject: Fwd: Speaker's travel
Attachments: image001.jpg

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Balmert, Jessie" <jbalmert@gannett.com>
Date: April 9, 2018 at 3:40:42 PM EDT
To: "Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov" <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Speaker's travel

Brad,
We are working on a story about the speaker's travel to other cities and countries, sometimes paid for by other groups. Much is documented in financial disclosures and campaign finance reports. Wanted to give Speaker Rosenberger an opportunity to respond – what is the value of those trips? Any concerns about groups like ALEC, GOPAC, NCSL reimbursing travel expenses?

Thanks,
Jessie

Jessie Balmert
State government reporter
740-973-4536 | [@jbalmert](https://twitter.com/jbalmert)



From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 8:05 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Identifies \$1.8 Billion in Tax Loopholes that Should be Closed

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Identifies \$1.8 Billion in Tax Loopholes that Should be Closed

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute today released a **list of \$1.8 billion in tax loopholes** that should be reviewed by the Ohio's Tax Expenditure Review Committee and considered for elimination to simplify Ohio's tax code and reduce Ohio's tax rate. Eliminating these loopholes without reducing the tax rate would be a tax increase on the citizens of Ohio.

"Ohio has made progress in recent years to improve the state's tax system. Yet, more can be done to build on that success and to further strengthen Ohio's job creation climate," said Greg R. Lawson. "That is why the work of the Tax Expenditure Review Committee is so important. By closing the loopholes we have identified, policymakers will be able use those savings to lower tax rates to keep Ohio's economy growing."

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The Buckeye Institute recommended closing **20 loopholes** that total \$1.8 billion in savings which should be used to reduce Ohio's tax rate, including:

- The notorious NetJets loophole for those who buy shares of corporate jets;
- The **motion picture tax credit**, which has been **eliminated** in other states;
- Credits for political campaign contributions; and
- The job retention and creation tax credits that favor one business over another.

Tax expenditures, or loopholes, no matter how well intentioned, add complexity to Ohio's tax code and favor specific groups over others. As outlined in Buckeye's ***Tax Reform Principles for Ohio***, a simpler, flatter tax code that allows all businesses to compete on an equal playing field should be the goal of Ohio policymakers.

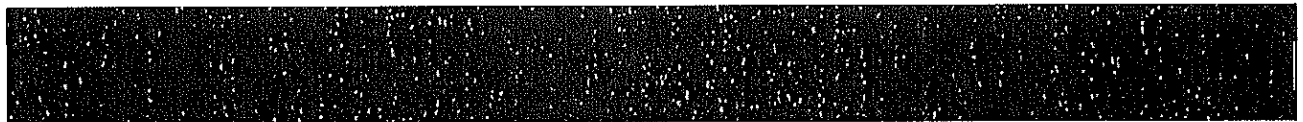
The Buckeye Institute **first called for the creation of the review committee** in 2011, when, along with the Center for Community Solutions and the Greater Ohio Policy Center, it identified **20 loopholes** that should have been closed.

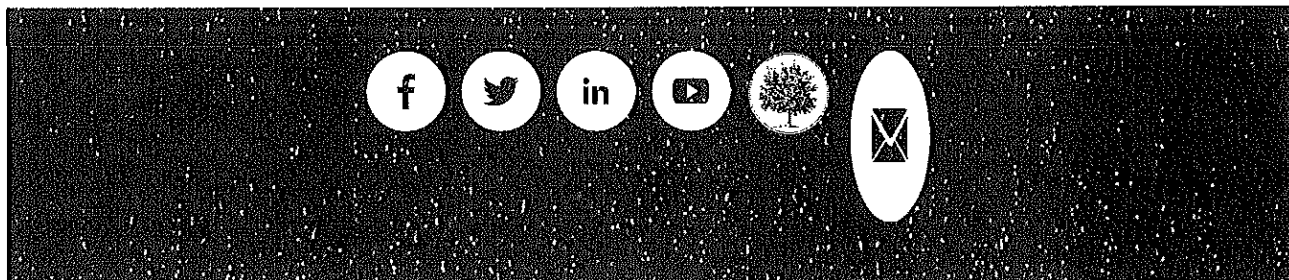
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 6:16 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger stuns lawmakers by announcing resignation amid FBI inquiry

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Wednesday, April 11, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

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Reps. Sarah LaTourette, a Republican, and John Patterson, a Democrat, explain to colleagues on the House Finance Committee an amendment to a school resource officer bill that would offer \$10 million to districts to pay for a specialized officer training, among other security measures. (Laura Hancock/Capitol Letter)

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= 9 **Rotunda Rumbblings**

= 9 **Cliff dive:** House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger announced Tuesday that he will resign from the legislature on May 1 amid FBI questioning into his spending and travel. It was a shocking and unexpected fall for one of the most powerful politicians in Ohio, coming just a few days after the first media reports surfaced that Rosenberger hired a defense attorney. According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, the FBI is looking into a 2017 trip to London that included lobbyists from the payday lending industry, as well as his ties to top GOP donor/Rosenberger's landlord Ginni Ragan. Rosenberger denied any wrongdoing but said he needed to step aside as the inquiry "could take months or even years to resolve."

= 9 **Meet the new boss:** House Speaker Pro Tem Kirk Schuring will step up to handle the speaker's duties until a new speaker is elected to serve through the end of the year. Lawmakers told Capitol Letter that election likely won't happen until after the May 8 primary. "Moving forward, my goal will be to facilitate the operations of this institution as smoothly and efficiently as possible," Schuring said in a statement.

= 9 **Lawmakers stunned:** Several House Republicans told Capitol Letter they were shocked at the news of Rosenberger's resignation. "I didn't foresee anything like this coming," said Wooster Republican Scott Wiggam. "I'm a little bit in shock and I want to know more." Others described Rosenberger as being selfless for giving up his legislative career for the sake of the caucus. "He came into this job having been through a speaker's battle with several factions of our caucus," said Circleville Rep. Gary Scherer. "I've been so impressed at how he was able to pull those different factions together to accomplish a lot."

= 9 **Big bucks added to bill:** The House Finance Committee advanced a bill Tuesday after adding \$10 million to help districts with the cost of school resource officer training, which costs \$500 per officer. The money could also be used for school safety equipment and to help schools identify students with mental health issues. Originally, House Bill 318 merely specified that officers had to take the 40-hour specialized training, but Rep. Sarah LaTourette said Rosenberger and Senate President Larry Obhof

wanted the bill to have training money.

= 9 **No arming teachers:** Testifying in support of HB 318 was Frank Hall, a Chardon High School teacher and football coach who Sports Illustrated called an American hero after he chased a gunman out the school and offered comfort to two boys who eventually died from shooting injuries in 2012. While Hall supports school resource officers, he said he's thankful he didn't take the shooter's life. "I would just think teachers are nurturers by nature. In the heat of the moment where everyone's flying around, I don't have the same training as Officer Shaw has," Hall said, referring to Chardon's school resource officer, Mike Shaw, who also supports HB 318.

= 9 **More for OhioCorps:** Lawmakers cleared from committee a bill that creates OhioCorps, which aims to mentor and prepare for college at-risk high schoolers who come from poverty or homes with drug abuse. The pilot program originally was targeted for Southeast Ohio. But lawmakers adopted a substitute to House Bill 508 that will allow students from all regions of the state to be eligible for the program.

= 9 **Tax talk:** The committee reviewing Ohio's 129 tax breaks is meeting Wednesday morning, for just the second time. On the Joint Tax Expenditure Review Committee's agenda are five tax exemptions. The conservative Buckeye Institute on Tuesday released a list of 20 loopholes it thinks Ohio should close, including the film tax credit and the NetJets loophole for those who buy shares of corporate jets.

= 9 **Phoning ahead:** A telecom deregulation bill designed to help local telephone companies is headed to the House floor after clearing the House Public Utilities Committee on Tuesday. Before reporting House Bill 402, panel members approved an amendment that, among other things, would allow smaller base rate increases than the original bill language would have permitted. The original bill would have allowed rate hikes of up to 20 percent per year; the revised bill raises maximum increases from \$1.25 per month in current law to \$2 per month.

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Senate biz: Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof said there could be 15 bills up for a vote on the floor Wednesday, but the final number will depend on the progress of morning committee hearings. Bills that could be considered

include criminal sentencing changes under Senate Bill 202, known as the Reagan Tokes Act for an Ohio State University student who was kidnapped, raped and murdered; an overhaul of the Joint Committee on Agency Rule (Senate Bill 221); and a bill extending unemployment benefits to spouses who quit their jobs to follow military members to new jobs (House Bill 158).

= 9 **On the House side...** Wednesday's Ohio House floor agenda includes legislation to loosen regulations on banks and credit unions (House Bill 489), set up a \$100 million broadband grant program (House Bill 378), allow dogs on outdoor patios of bars and cafes (House Bill 263), and designate June 12 as "Superman Day" in Ohio (House Bill 135).

= 9 **Cordray hits the airwaves:** Rich Cordray's gubernatorial campaign on Tuesday began airing its first TV ad: a 30-second spot highlighting the Democrat's work as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. A Cordray campaign spokesman said the ad is running statewide, though Cordray's camp declined to release any other information about the size and scope of the ad buy.

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The old college try: Also on Tuesday, Cordray vowed to make community college free for all Ohioans if elected. In a release, Cordray also proposed using challenge grants to help expand Columbus State Community College's "Preferred Pathways" program, which guarantees students admission and 100-percent credit transfer to a dozen four-year colleges and universities in Ohio. He further favors broadening the Accelerated Study in Associate Program, which offers scholarships, intensive advising, a transportation stipend and other services to community college students. Cordray's plan didn't specify how all this would be paid for.

= 9 **My out-of-town friend's stopping by:** Cordray is bringing in U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to campaign with him Friday in Cincinnati and Columbus, according to the Associated Press.

= 9 **Return fire:** House speaker hopeful Rep. Larry Householder is firing back against an attack ad with a new \$85,000 TV/radio ad buy, according to political ad-spending tracker Medium Buying. In the TV ad, airing in the Columbus market, the Perry County Republican shoots a gun at a

television featuring an anti-Householder ad from the recently formed Honor and Principles PAC.

= 9 **O'Connor gets some Mansfield love:** Democratic 12th Congressional District candidate Danny O'Connor was endorsed Tuesday by ex-state Rep. Jay Goyal of Mansfield, who briefly considered running for the seat himself, according to a campaign release. O'Connor, the Franklin County recorder, was also backed by three Mansfield City Council members, including Council President Phillip Scott.

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

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Dems debate: Tuesday night's debate among the Democratic candidates for governor didn't live up to expectations in terms of razzle-dazzle. But the candidates had plenty to say afterward about the resignation of House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, reports cleveland.com's Seth Richardson.

= 9 **Seeds of hope:** "Ohio soybean farmers in a pocket of Northwest Ohio say they're willing to gamble on the potential of big tariffs on their crops to achieve a better deal on trade with China," cleveland.com's Mary Kilpatrick reports in the latest installment of the Ohio Matters series. The Seneca County farmers aren't panicking about the threatened tariffs. "They believe President Donald Trump is trying to make trade with China more fair for Americans, and trust him at the negotiation table," Kilpatrick writes.

= 9 **Time to vote:** Early voting is underway for the May 8 primary, cleveland.com's Karen Farkas reminds us. And to help with your decision on Issue 1, the congressional redistricting reform proposal, the secretary of state's office has put out an informational video, the Associated Press reports.

= 9 **Kasich pushes gun legislation:** The father of a victim of the Parkland, Fla. school shooting joined Gov. John Kasich Tuesday to push for "common-sense" gun legislation, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports. "Fred Guttenberg said gun safety measures such as those in a recently passed Florida law would have prevented the death of his 14-year-old daughter Jaime," Borchardt writes.

= 9 **Brown's war chest:** U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, who is unopposed in the Democratic primary but will face a heavily funded GOP challenge in November, has raised a hefty \$19.7 million for his re-election, according to figures released to the Columbus Dispatch.

= 9 **More on campaign money:** In the crowded Republican race for former U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi's seat, state Sen. Troy Balderson reported raising \$410,000, the Dispatch reports. The Dispatch also has a look at Balderson and the nine other GOP candidates in the race.

= 9 **Time to leave?** A day after the FBI raid on the offices of President Trump's attorney, Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan of Champaign County told the Daily Caller Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein should be held accountable for leadership over special counsel Robert Muller's Russia investigation. Jordan complained that Congress isn't being kept abreast of the investigation and when lawmakers receive information it's heavily redacted and difficult to understand.

= 9 **Wheels of the bus:** Former U.S. House Speaker John Boehner of West Chester told CNN he is hitting the road on a rented motor coach called "Freedom One" to lend his support to Republicans running for the U.S. House. Boehner has a tradition of campaigning on a bus.

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Full Disclosure

= 9 Five things we've learned about the May 15 ethics disclosure statement of Rep. Rick Perales, a Beavercreek Republican.

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1. In 2016 he earned between \$10,000 and \$24,999 in Air Force retirement income, in addition to his \$66,944 legislative salary.

= 9 2. He's saving for his children's education in a 529 plan. He is also invested in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System and Ohio Deferred Compensation. He has mutual funds with Fidelity and Templeton Fund and retirement with the University of Dayton, where he was the school's executive director of facilities from 1998 to 2013.

= 9 3. He owed at least \$1,000 in 2016 to Wright-Patt Credit Union, USAA

Mastercard, PNC Bank, American Express, Pentagon Federal Credit Union and Capital One.

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4. The state reimbursed him \$2,501.20 for mileage between Columbus and home. The National Conference of State Legislatures reimbursed him \$594 for travel.

= 9 5. He received gifts valued at \$364.38 in 2016— including \$95 from the Dayton Development Coalition to register for the Ohio Defense Forum and \$98 tickets to the University of Cincinnati versus Houston football game in the president's box.

= 9 **On the Move**

= 9 The League of Women Voters of Ohio announced Jennifer Miller as its incoming executive director. Miller comes from the Sierra Club of Ohio, where she was executive director.

= 9 Thomas Gallick is a new reporter for Gongwer News Service, taking over for departing reporter Melissa Dilley. Gallick, a Kent State University graduate, previously covered Delaware County for ThisWeek Community News.

= 9 **What's Going On Today**

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7:30 to 9 a.m. – Sen. Vernon Sykes fundraising reception: The Akron Democrat is seeking donations between \$350 and \$1,000. *Capital Club, 50 S. Front St.*

= 9 **8 a.m. – Ohio Library Council legislative day.** *Capital Club, 50 S. Front St.*

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8 to 9:30 a.m. – Rep. Bernadine Kent fundraiser: The Columbus Democrat is seeking donations between \$250 and \$1,000. *Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High St.*

= 9 **8 a.m. – Ohio General Assembly Cancer Caucus.** *Finance Hearing*

Room, Senate Building.

= **A 9 a.m. – House Health Committee:** The panel may adopt a substitute bill for House Bill 456, which would ban forced overtime for nurses. *Room 121, Ohio Statehouse.*

= **9 9:15 a.m. – Senate Public Utilities Committee:** The committee may amend and vote on House Bill 478, which would limit what cities can charge telecommunications companies wanting to install small-cell antennae for 5G mobile networks. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= **9 9:30 a.m. – House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee:** The committee may amend and vote on House Bill 123, which would reform Ohio's payday-lending rules, as well as adopt a substitute bill for House Bill 525, which would increase the state's film tax credit to \$100 million a year. *Room 313, Ohio Statehouse.*

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9:30 a.m. – House Transportation and Public Safety Committee: Panel members are slated to hear testimony on autonomous and connected vehicles. *Room 114, Ohio Statehouse.*

= **9 10 a.m. – Joint Tax Expenditure Review Committee.** *North Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

= **9 10:30 a.m. – Dave Yost, GOP lawmakers to unveil telemarketing bill:** State Sen. Dave Burke and state Reps. Keith Faber and Jonathan Dever will join Auditor Yost in announcing plans for new legislation to stop telemarketers from using misleading caller ID information. *Harding Senate Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

= **9 11:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. – Habitat for Humanity to build home outside Statehouse:** Lawmakers, staff, and other volunteers plan to build the walls of a house to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. *Ohio Statehouse grounds.*

= **9 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Reps. Craig Riedel and Kristina Roegner fundraising luncheon:** The Republicans are seeking contributions

between \$350 and \$1,000. *Condado, 132 S. High St.*

= 9 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Rep. Laura Lanese fundraising reception: Rep. Sarah LaTourette is slated to be a special guest. Donation levels range from \$350 to \$1,000. *The Goat, 219 S. High St.*

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Noon – Rep. Bill Reineke to discuss wind turbine bill: The Tiffin Republican and local officials plan to discuss legislation revising Ohio's property setback law for new wind projects. *Harding Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

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12:30 p.m. – Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish to deliver State of the County address. *Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, Grand Ballroom, 300 Lakeside Ave., Cleveland.*

= 9 1:30 p.m. – House Session.

= 9 1:30 p.m. – Senate Session.

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1:30 p.m. – Public Utilities Commission of Ohio meeting. *Room 11B, 180 E. Broad St.*

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3:30 p.m. – Jon Husted to campaign in Youngstown: The secretary of state and GOP lieutenant governor candidate plans to tour the America Makes Innovation Factory and deliver brief remarks. *236 W. Boardman St., Youngstown.*

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5 to 6:30 p.m. – Reps. Steve Hambley and Rick Perales fundraising reception: The Republicans are seeking donations ranging from \$350 to \$1,000. *The Buckeye Bourbon House, 36 E. Gay St.*

= 9 5 to 7 p.m. – Sen. Sean O'Brien and Rep. John Bocchieri fundraiser. *Condado, 132 S. High St.*

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5 to 7 p.m. – Legislative candidate Tom Bullock fundraiser: The House District 13 Democratic candidate is seeking donations between \$50 and \$250. *Dempsey's, 346 S. High St.*

= 9 5 p.m. – **Sens. Bob Peterson and Steve Wilson fundraiser:** The Republicans are seeking donations between \$350 and \$1,000. *Athletic Club of Columbus lounge, 136 E. Broad St.*

= 9 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – **Joe Schiavoni, Stephanie Dodd to hold Zanesville fundraiser:** The Democratic gubernatorial ticket is seeking donations between \$25 and \$500. *Weasel Boy Brewing Company, 126 Muskingum Ave., Suite E, Zanesville.*

= 9 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – **Mary Taylor to campaign in Wayne County:** The Republican gubernatorial candidate plans to speak at Wayne County Republican Party headquarters. *121 W. North St., Wooster.*

= 9 Birthdays

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Rep. Jay Edwards

= 9 Straight From The Source

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"I haven't been this happy since my husband bought me an AR-15 for Mother's Day."

= 9 - State Rep. Christina Hagan, who is running for Ohio's 16th U.S. House district, announcing her NRA endorsement in a video that also features her shooting the gun.

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One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been

sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

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- In *Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation v. Cirino*, it will hear a case involving a Bureau of Workers' compensation beneficiary challenging the electronic payment program because he is charged fees by his bank. The state argues the case must be filed in the Court of Claims.
- A Columbus attorney is facing a six-month stayed suspension for failure to keep and maintain required financial records in the case of *Columbus Bar Association v. Keating*.

Ohio Groups Debate Trump's Short-Term Health Plan Proposal

A Trump administration proposal to expand options for short-term health insurance is designed to give consumers more options in the marketplace without the regulatory burden of current plans.

Opponents say it could lead to more limited coverage and raise premiums for people on standard exchange plans.

The proposal by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announced last week, would allow short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans to provide coverage for up to 12 months, up from the current maximum of three months.

These plans are not required to meet the federal requirements for individual health insurance, such as providing essential health benefits or coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

"In a market that is experiencing double-digit rate increases, allowing short-term, limited-duration insurance to cover longer periods gives Americans options and could be the difference between someone getting coverage or going without coverage at all," CMS Administrator Seema Verma said in a statement.

In Ohio, the move will provide more competition in the marketplace for health insurance, said Greg Lawson, research fellow at the Buckeye Institute.

"It's not going to be a perfect fit for everybody, but for those individuals that it works for, this could be something that could work for you, and it would be a cheaper alternative than being forced into the exchange," he said in an interview.

Critics say the change will erode coverage for people who sign up for the short-term plans and drive up premiums for those who need the more comprehensive coverage of Affordable Care Act-compliant plans.

"These short-term plans are likely to be harmful in the long run," said Steven Wagner, executive director of UHCAN Ohio. "Since they may lack meaningful coverage, people may find that their health care costs are not covered or face substantial out of pocket costs. These plans are a step in the wrong direction."

A report by the Urban Institute estimated the change would lead to an increase of 2.5 million people without minimum essential health care coverage by 2019, and an increase of 18.2% in 2019 premiums for ACA-compliant nongroup insurance plans.

The changes would allow people to shop around for the coverage they want, Mr. Lawson said. The Buckeye Institute and others have criticized the ACA exchanges for placing burdensome regulations on insurers and raising premiums.

"In general, what this will allow is you can have more barebones type policies that are more affordable," he said. "I don't think this is necessarily the pathway that we would prefer to see on a permanent basis but given the fact that the affordable care act is still the law of the land, this does give some breathing space."

Mr. Wagner said those requirements ensure people have comprehensive insurance coverage. He called the latest change part of an effort to eliminate coverage requirements created under the ACA.

"The Trump Administration is eating away at the foundations of health care coverage like termites in the foundation," he said. "This change along w the ability to alter the essential health benefits weakens people's access to quality affordable health care."

Travel Trailer Maker Tops List Of Tax Credits Issued By State Panel

The Tax Credit Authority on Monday approved incentives for four projects that promise to create a total of 475 jobs and retain another 1,405 positions, the Development Services Agency reported.

The \$2.81 million in tax credits, an estimate that depends on the companies meeting their hiring goals and other criteria, are projected to help trigger \$41 million in investments and result in more than \$24 million in new payroll, according to the state.

Topping the list in terms of impacted jobs and tax credit value is the \$2.325 million incentive for **Airstream, Inc.** in the Village of Jackson Center in Shelby County.

The designer and manufacturer of travel trailers and touring coaches expects to create 280 full-time positions generating \$14.8 million in new payroll while retaining \$57.2 million in payroll with its expansion project. The TCA approved a 1.874%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the plans.

The other approved projects (estimated tax credit values) are:

Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. of Hilliard (Franklin Co.). The provider of claims, productivity, managed care, risk consulting and other services expects to create 109 full-time positions generating \$4.3 million in new payroll while retaining \$13.4 million in payroll. The expansion plans attracted a tax credit of 1.31% over seven years (\$400,000).